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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### **Sudanese Community in Scotland (Support)**

**Clare Adamson (SNP)** [S6O-02285] To ask the Scottish Government how it can support the Sudanese community living in Scotland, in light of the on-going humanitarian crisis in Sudan.

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson):** The Scottish Government stands with the international community and communities across Scotland in our shared deep concern over the violence in Sudan. That particularly impacts the Sudanese community living in Scotland, many of whom have friends and relatives directly affected.

On 10 May, I met representatives of the Sudanese community in Scotland alongside

representatives from the national health service and third sector support organisations. That meeting was a starting point for dialogue about how we can support the Sudanese community in Scotland, including ensuring that Sudanese nationals who live here are aware of the support services that they can access and, where necessary, raising issues with the United Kingdom Government.

**Clare Adamson:** It would be helpful if some of those signposting bits of information could be shared with colleagues, as the situation is on-going.

In my role as committee convener, I met Sudanese health workers online from across the UK, from senior staff and senior consultants to nurses and support services staff in our NHS, each a vital cog in making our NHS work. Some of their colleagues who work for the NHS were in Sudan at the time the crisis arose; others have gone back there to bring friends and family to safety, particularly elderly parents and children, and now find themselves in Egypt and Dubai, unable to obtain family visas. ... Those people are vital workers in our communities. Can the cabinet secretary make representations to the Home Office about the situation?

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** First, Clare Adamson is absolutely right to highlight the role of Sudanese nationals and people of Sudanese descent who work in our national health service. It is important to understand quite how many there are, and they deserve our recognition and support.

Secondly, I undertake to share with the member and other MSPs the signposting information that individual MSPs might wish to share with Sudanese nationals and constituents.

As asylum and immigration are reserved matters, we will press the UK Government on them. I have written to the Foreign Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice has written to the Home Secretary to call for safe and legal routes and arrangements for family reunion to be put in place. Those arrangements must be flexible enough to enable people who are forced to leave Sudan to safely come to the UK and join family who already have leave to remain here. ...

**Foyso Choudhury (Labour):** The situation in Sudan is not improving. Almost 1 million people have been displaced just one month into the conflict, and neighbouring countries are already overwhelmed with refugees. What discussions has the Scottish Government had with the UK Government about the possible influx of refugees coming from Sudan if the conflict continues indefinitely?

**Reply from Angus Robertson:** Foyso Choudhury will have heard my previous answer, in which I talked about the communication that I have had with the UK Government and my cabinet secretary colleague has had with the Home Office on that question. He is absolutely right to ask what we can do to help families come together in this time of need, and I would be happy to work with him and colleagues across the chamber to do what we can to impress on the UK Government its responsibilities to ensure that that can happen

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15330&i=130721#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### Immigration Update

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman) [HCWS800]** The Government committed to bringing net migration down in the 2019 manifesto and remain committed to doing so. In December 2020, we ended decades of uncontrolled migration from the European Union and put in place a new points-based immigration system to give Ministers full control of our borders. For the first time since we joined the EU, we gained complete control of who comes to the UK and the ability to operate an immigration system

that we can flex to the changing needs of the economy and labour market, as well as tailor to the skills and talent needed by UK businesses and our NHS.

But immigration is dynamic, and we must constantly iterate our approach to take account of changing migrant flows and respond to evidence of abuse or unintended consequences. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published data in November 2022 which estimated that net migration in the year June 2021 to June 2022 was at 504,000—up significantly on the previous year, and higher than pre-Brexit volumes. It partly attributed this rise to temporary factors—such as a post-covid surge and safe and legal routes, like the UK's Ukraine and Hong Kong schemes.

The immigration statistics also highlighted an unexpected rise in the number of dependants coming to the UK alongside international students. Around 136,000 visas were granted to dependants of sponsored students in the year ending December 2022, a more than eightfold increase from 16,000 in 2019, when the Government's commitment to lower net migration was made. This does not detract from the considerable success that the Government and the higher education sector have had in achieving the goals from our International Education Strategy, meeting our target to host 600,000 international students studying in the UK per year by 2030, for two years running, and earlier than planned—a success story in terms of economic value and exports.

The International Education Strategy plays an important part in supporting the economy through the economic contribution students can bring to the UK, but this should not be at the expense of our commitment to the public to lower overall migration and ensure that migration to the UK is highly skilled and therefore provides the most benefit. The proposals we are announcing today will ensure that we can continue to meet our International Education Strategy commitments, while making a tangible contribution to reducing net migration to sustainable levels. The terms of the graduate route remain unchanged.

Following close working with the Department for Education and HM Treasury, I am pleased to announce a package of measures to help deliver our goal of falling net migration, while supporting the Government's priority of growing the economy.

This package includes:

- Removing the right for international students to bring dependants unless they are on postgraduate courses currently designated as research programmes.

- Removing the ability for international students to switch out of the student route into work routes before their studies have been completed.

- Reviewing the maintenance requirements for students and dependants.

- Steps to clamp down on unscrupulous education agents who may be supporting inappropriate applications to sell immigration not education.

- Better communicating immigration rules to the higher education sector and to international students.

- Improved and more targeted enforcement activity.

We are committed to attracting the brightest and the best to the UK. Therefore, our intention is to work with universities over the course of the next year to design an alternative approach that ensures that the best and the brightest students can bring dependants to our world-leading universities, while continuing to reduce net migration. We will bring in this system as soon as possible, after thorough consultation with the sector and key stakeholders.

This package strikes the right balance between acting decisively on tackling net migration and protecting the economic benefits that students can bring to the UK. Now is the time for us to make these changes to ensure an impact on net migration as soon as possible. We expect this package to have a tangible impact on net migration. Taken together with the easing of temporary factors, we expect net migration to fall to pre-pandemic levels in the medium term.

We recognise that no one single measure will control immigration. As the impacts of temporary pressures becomes clearer, we will keep matters under review. The

Government will seek to continue to strike the balance between reducing overall net migration with ensuring that businesses have the skills they need and that we continue to support economic growth. Those affected by this package will predominantly be dependants of students who make a more limited contribution to the economy than students or those coming under the skilled worker route, minimising the impact on UK growth.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-23/debates/23052378000021/ImmigrationUpdate>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Net Migration Figures

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on net migration figures.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** Net migration to the United Kingdom is far too high. That was already clear from the previous set of official data. The Office for National Statistics has today amended its previous published estimate of net migration for the year ending June 2022 to 606,000. The statistics published today indicate that net migration has flatlined since then. In the year ending December 2022, it estimates that net migration remained at 606,000. These particularly high figures are in large part due to temporary and exceptional factors, such as the UK's Ukraine and Hong Kong British nationals overseas schemes. Last year, more than 200,000 Ukrainians and 150,000 Hong Kong British nationals overseas made use of the routes to life or time in the United Kingdom. Those schemes command broad support from the British public, and we were right to introduce them.

The Government remain committed to reducing overall net migration to sustainable levels. That is a solemn promise that we made to the British public in our manifesto, and we are unwavering in our determination to deliver it. This week, we announced steps to tackle the substantial rise in the number of student dependants coming to the UK. The package of measures will ensure that we can reduce migration while continuing to benefit from the skills and resources our economy needs, because universities should be in the education business, not the immigration business. We expect this package to have a tangible impact on net migration. Taken together with the easing of temporary factors, such as our exceptional humanitarian offers, we expect net migration to fall to pre-pandemic levels in the medium term.

The public rightly expect us to control our borders, whether that is stopping the boats and addressing illegal migration or ensuring that levels of legal migration do not place undue pressure on public services, housing supply or integration. The Government are taking decisive action on both counts. Under the points-based system that we introduced post Brexit, we can control immigration, we must control immigration, and we will.

**Yvette Cooper:** Today's extraordinary figures, including the doubling of the number of work visas since the pandemic, show that the Conservatives have no plan and no grip on immigration. They show the chaos in this Government. Work visas are up 119% since before the pandemic. ... Net migration is more than twice the level that Ministers were aiming for and considerably more than the Home Secretary's claimed aims. The asylum backlog is at a record high—the opposite of the Prime Minister's promise to clear the backlog this year. Less than 1% of last year's small boat arrivals have had a decision. ... Net migration should come down and we would expect it to do so, but the continued gap between the Government's rhetoric and the reality is very damaging. Rightly, the UK has given support to Ukraine and to Hongkongers. Rightly, we welcome international students

who bring substantial benefits, but changes on family are sensible. International recruitment will always be important so that we get the skills and talent we need, but we have a major increase in employers turning to overseas recruitment, and the Government have no plan to increase training or to properly tackle those skills shortages here at home. ...

There has been no action at all to address the huge backlog in the asylum system and to make sure that claims are properly processed. Immigration is important to this country, and we need a system that works, but it has to be properly controlled and managed, rather than the chaos that the Government have created.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... At every possible opportunity, Labour Members have voted against every measure this Government have brought forward to control migration. They voted against ending free movement and, at every turn, they voted against measures to tackle illegal migration. Just recently, they voted against the Illegal Migration Bill. ... The Conservative party is taking tangible steps to bring down net migration. Yesterday, we took a decisive step to clamp down on student dependants, because universities should be selling education, not immigration. ...

**Peter Bottomley (Conservative):** ... Beyond the admission order office, there is the memorial plaque for the Kindertransport. Some of those who feel most strongly against immigration now feel proud of what we did then. We have to remember that there were then and there are now tens of millions of people around the world suffering because of violence in their own countries, and there are others with bad Governments who stop them having economic success where they are. Can I say that, as well as having a good immigration policy, we ought to do all we can around the world to have better governance and a flexible economic system, so that people can be happy living where they are, not feeling that they have to come here for refuge?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I strongly agree ... We have made two very significant interventions in the last two years. The first was to provide sanctuary here in the United Kingdom for Hong Kong BNOs, to whom we have a moral and historical obligation, to enable them to escape creeping authoritarianism in Hong Kong and make a new life here in the UK. We are proud of that, and I expect that, in the years to come, that scheme will be looked back on as a great success for this country. Secondly, the Ukraine schemes have now led to 200,000 Ukrainians coming to the UK and seeking sanctuary here, with hundreds of thousands of British people opening up their homes to support them. Those were great schemes.

We want to ensure schemes such as those can continue, and that the UK can be an even greater force for good in the world. That does not mean, however, that we should go slow on further measures to bring down net migration, because net migration does place very significant burdens on communities in respect of housing, public services and our ability to integrate people. That is why we made further interventions this week, and we will consider further ones in the future. ...

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** Can I start by recognising the amazing contribution of all those who have come to make the UK their home, whether they are refugees or students, care workers, nurses, hospitality workers or anything else? ... Of course, it was right to welcome Ukrainians and BNOs from Hong Kong in 2022, and we welcome that as well. ...

Ministers often give us a nice soundbite about how they want a migration system that works for the whole of the UK. We say that is fine, but it does not mean that precisely the same policies need to apply everywhere. In Scotland, we have no need or desire for policies that are going to put international students off, keep families apart or make it harder to recruit the workers we need. Does the Minister have anything to say about the unique challenges faced by different parts of the UK and how those shape immigration policy? Will he even look again at the remote areas pilot scheme, which was recommended by the Migration Advisory Committee, and sought and voted for by the Scottish Parliament?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... the hon. Gentleman makes a fair point; we need a

pragmatic approach to particular sectors that are facing skills shortages, and we need to think about regional disparities across the whole United Kingdom. We do not believe that there should be separate immigration systems for the nations of the UK, and the evidence bears that out: there is no material difference in either unemployment or economic inactivity between Scotland and the United Kingdom average. We do take account, through the shortage occupation list, of particular sectors that are facing challenges, and some are of course more focused in some parts of the UK than in others. ...

**Edward Leigh (Conservative):** Some people in the Treasury seem to think that a good way to grow the economy is to fill the country with ever more people, but that is bad for productivity and bad for British workers, who are being undercut by mass migration from all over the world. Why is it that under the points-based system we allow into the country people earning only £26,000 a year, while the median UK salary is £33,000? ...

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** My right hon. Friend makes an important point ... we need a controlled migration system and that net migration has a number of impacts on communities, including further pressure on public services and housing supply and making it more difficult to integrate people into our country and maintain community cohesion. In some instances, high levels of net migration also put downward pressure on wages for the domestic economy and enable some employers to reach for the easy lever of importing foreign labour rather than training up their own British workforce. It is for those reasons what we created the points-based system that has a salary threshold—a freedom we only have as a result of leaving the European Union—and if further changes to that system are necessary in the future, we will make them. ...

**To read this very long question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-25/debates/93F84978-C83F-4DEB-A12C-30671D27D905/NetMigrationFigures>

### **Illegal Immigration Bill: Devolved Administrations**

**Owen Thompson (SNP) [905037]** Whether [the Minister] has had recent discussions with the devolved Administrations on the Illegal Immigration Bill.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** I am in regular correspondence with the devolved Administrations about the Illegal Migration Bill. I recently met the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Angus Robertson, and last week I wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice to propose a meeting, which I hope will happen later this week.

**Owen Thompson:** Not only is the Bill being driven through Parliament at breakneck speech, but the Scottish Government have been given no opportunity yet to consider the proposals properly before their introduction. Does the Minister therefore agree that any regulations through the Bill that would amend, repeal or revoke any Scottish legislation or any devolved matter cannot possibly come into force without the consent of Scottish Ministers?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I think that I just made clear that I have reached out to colleagues in the Scottish Government. But immigration is a reserved matter, and it is a matter for this Parliament to dictate our future borders policy. I hope that the hon. Gentleman will support the Bill. From the figures that I have seen, his constituency of Midlothian currently has no asylum seekers in dispersal accommodation and no asylum seekers in contingency accommodation such as hotels. Zero asylum seekers in his constituency. He is, I am afraid, yet another example of humanitarian nimbyism by the SNP.

**Priti Patel (Conservative):** In addition to the devolved Administrations, will the Minister kindly share details of the discussions that he has had with local authorities—local

government and local councils in particular—on the Bill's provisions? How do those relate to the Government's plans to accommodate people in Wethersfield, including those who would be covered by the Bill?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I am grateful to my right hon. Friend. When she was Home Secretary, she set out the policy to create large sites on which to house asylum seekers in a more focused and less expensive manner, and she took forward a proposal for a site in the north of England. My right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary and I have continued that tradition and set forth plans for three sites: one at Bexhill, one at Wethersfield and one at Scampton. ...

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** The Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance, TARA, supported 156 women in its service in 2021 and 2020. Of those, 138 were seeking asylum or were undocumented when they were referred to TARA. Bronagh Andrew of TARA told the Scottish Parliament's Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee that, "had the Illegal Migration Bill been in place, those women would not have been able to access our support."

In the face of clear evidence of the harm that the Tories' Illegal Migration Bill will cause, what possible justification can the Minister give for removing support from trafficked women in Scotland and strengthening the hand of those who would exploit them?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Bill is based on the simple principle that we want to break the people smugglers' and human traffickers' business model. By supporting the Bill—I know the hon. Lady opposes it—we will do that. We will stop people making these dangerous, unnecessary crossings and there will be fewer cases such as those that she raises. But I go back to the point that I made to her colleague, the hon. Member for Midlothian (Owen Thompson). If the SNP feels so strongly about this issue, why does it do so little to support asylum seekers in Scotland? Currently, there are 11 contingency hotels in the whole of Scotland, housing 600 migrants. That is 1% of all the asylum seekers in the country. She never matches her words with deeds.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-22/debates/A620D6E3-9EE9-4651-84B9-6602FC3E55AB/IllegalImmigrationBillDevolvedAdministrations>

### Immigration Policies: Scotland

**Patricia Gibson (SNP) [905036]** What assessment [the Minister] has made of the effect of her Department's immigration policies on labour shortages in Scotland.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** The points-based system serves the whole United Kingdom, and as noted in the Migration Advisory Committee annual report, immigration policy cannot be a complete solution to population movements within the United Kingdom, or to labour shortages. The Scottish Government have policy levers to address those issues more effectively.

**Patricia Gibson:** The Scottish Government have repeatedly raised the issue, I have secured a debate on it, and my SNP colleagues have raised it over and over again: labour shortages are posing huge challenges for Scotland right now. The Scottish Government proposed a rural immigration pilot—a proposal welcomed by one of the Home Secretary's predecessors, the right hon. Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid). Why will the UK Government not engage with the Scottish Government on that important issue, given that the Scottish Government have no powers in that area?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We believe strongly that the UK is better served by a single, national immigration service, and there is no material difference between unemployment or economic inactivity rates in Scotland versus the rest of the United Kingdom. The first port of call for vacancies should always be the domestic workforce. That is why my right hon. Friend the Work and Pensions Secretary has brought forward a wide package of measures across the whole country, to help

more people into the workforce. It is not right that we always reach for the lever of immigration to solve those challenges.

**Tom Hunt (Conservative):** Does my right hon. Friend agree that, when thinking about the level of net migration, we should consider not just GDP and economic impact but the social and cultural impact of such rapid change, including the pressure on public services and housing?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** It is right that we consider economic growth and the needs of our economy, but my hon. Friend is absolutely right that these decisions also require careful consideration of the impact of large amounts of legal migration on housing, access to public services and, as he said, community cohesion and integration. That is absolutely the approach of the Government and the Home Secretary, and I am considering the challenge. ...

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour):** Ending the small boat crossings is one way of reducing immigration, and Labour has a five point plan to do just that, but asylum seekers are only a fraction of the net migration total. The reason net migration is so high in Scotland and across the UK, and the reason businesses are over-reliant on migrant labour, is that, for 13 years, the Conservative party has failed to train up our home-grown talent. It has slashed the skills budget, and failed to get people off record-high NHS waiting lists and back to work. Labour has set out plans to do each of those things, because we want and expect immigration to come down, and yet the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary are clearly at loggerheads on the issue—it appears that the right hand does not know what the far-right hand is doing. Is the Home Secretary still committed to the 2019 Conservative manifesto pledge of bringing net migration below 226,000? If so, does she think that the Prime Minister agrees with her?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Let us be absolutely clear: this party wants to bring net migration down. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-22/debates/06F85854-DA6B-48EA-B177-B3048DA04838/ImmigrationPoliciesScotland>

### **Illegal Migration Bill: Trafficking Convention**

**Drew Hendry (SNP) [905107]** Whether [the Minister] has had discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the compatibility of the Illegal Migration Bill with the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings.

**Reply from the Attorney General (Victoria Prentis):** By long-standing convention, whether the Law Officers have been asked to provide advice, and the contents of any such advice, is not disclosed outside Government.

**Drew Hendry:** Nearly 200 civil society organisations covering human trafficking, modern slavery, asylum and refugees have called on the Government to immediately withdraw the Illegal Migration Bill because, as it stands, it will breach multiple conventions and agreements in international law. Will the Attorney General work with her colleagues to revise, review and change these provisions, or is she happy to underline that hers is a lawbreaking Government?

**Reply from the Attorney General:** As I said, there is a long-standing convention that means I cannot go into the legal advice that may or may not have been given. I can say simply that we do consider the Bill to be consistent with our international obligations. ...

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** The Attorney General will know that concern has been expressed on both sides of the House that the Bill will make it even harder to successfully prosecute traffickers. In short, that is because victims will not come forward if it simply means they are going to be detained and then removed to Rwanda. What is the Attorney General going to do about that?

**Reply from the Attorney General:** I am sorry, but once again, I cannot go into the



content of any legal advice that might have been given. I would, however, refer the hon. Gentleman to the explanatory notes that accompany the Illegal Migration Bill, which set out the circumstances in which ECAT is operating at the moment.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-25/debates/A824471B-C7F9-41C0-BE91-C84D9642D35E/IllegalMigrationBillTraffickingConvention>

*The Explanatory Notes referred to above can be read at*

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50909/documents/3354>

### **Student Visas**

**Carol Monaghan (SNP):** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to make a statement on the changes to the student visa route.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** Net migration is too high, and the Government are committed to bringing it down to sustainable levels. The most recent official statistics estimated that net migration in the year to June 2022 was at 504,000. This is partly due to temporary and exceptional factors such as the UK's Ukraine and Hong Kong schemes. Last year, more than 200,000 Ukrainians and 150,000 Hong Kong British nationals overseas made use of the routes to life or time in the United Kingdom. Those schemes command broad support from the British public, and we were right to introduce them.

The Government introduced a points-based system in 2020 to regain control of our borders post Brexit. We now need to decide who comes to the UK and operate a system that can flex to the changing needs of the labour market, such as the skills needs of the NHS. However, immigration is dynamic, and we must adapt to take account of changing behaviours and if there is evidence of abuse. The number of dependants arriving alongside international students has risen more than eightfold since 2019, from 16,000 in the year to December 2019 to 136,000 in the year ending December 2022. Dependants of students make a more limited contribution to the economy than students or those coming under the skilled worker route, but more fundamentally, our system was not designed for such large numbers of people coming here in this manner.

Yesterday, we introduced a package of measures to help deliver our goal of reducing net migration. The package includes removing the right for international students to bring dependants unless they are on research postgraduate courses and removing the ability for international students to switch out of the student route into work routes before their studies have been completed. This is the right and fair thing to do. It ensures we protect our public services and housing supply against undue pressure and we deliver on the promises we have made to the public to reduce net migration.

Our education institutions are world-renowned, and for good reason, and the Government remain committed to the commitments in the international education strategy, including the goal of 600,000 international students coming to the United Kingdom each year. But universities should be in the education business, not the immigration business. We are taking concerted action to deliver a fair and effective immigration system that benefits our citizens, our businesses and our economy. We are determined to get this right because it is demonstrably in the national interest.

**Carol Monaghan:** ... International students make an invaluable contribution to our economy. According to the Higher Education Policy Institute, last year they provided nearly £43 billion to the UK economy ... International students enrich our society and have skills that are proving ever more vital in this post-Brexit climate, which has seen the UK deprived of workers across key sectors. There are currently labour shortages in healthcare, STEM—science, technology, engineering and maths—and IT to name but a few sectors; how can

the Minister fail to recognise that this policy will simply exacerbate these?

The reality is that many students coming to the UK look beyond their studies and want their families to be part of that experience. Without a way for overseas students to bring their families, many will opt to go elsewhere, and any drop in international student numbers will cause further harm to universities that are already facing financial difficulties. This policy makes the Home Secretary's agenda crystal-clear: she is launching an attack on migrants regardless of the benefits they bring to the UK, and in pursuing this short-term reactionary programme international students are being caught in the crossfire.

In Scotland international students' contribution to university campuses and our wider society is celebrated, but Scotland will suffer the consequences of this misjudged policy. Once again this is indicative of how out of tune this Conservative Government are with the Scottish people. If the Government are insistent in pursuing their hostile environment, will they now accept that Scotland's needs, and wants, are different from theirs? ...

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... First, it was this Government who created the international education strategy, which set a target of attracting 600,000 international students to the UK. We have met that target 10 years early and are likely to exceed it this year. The action we are taking today does not take away from that goal: it ensures that there are no unintended consequences. It was never the intention of that policy to enable a very large number of dependants to come to the UK with those students. It is right that universities attract the best and the brightest and that those who are on longer courses, such as PhDs or MPhils, can bring dependants with them, but it is not right that education is a back door for immigration into the country.

The statistics I quoted earlier show the significant increases in the number of student dependants. In 2019, 16,000 visas were issued to student dependants. Last year, the number was 136,000—an increase of eight and a half times. In 2019, for every 10 Indian students, there was one visa issued to a dependant. Last year, that doubled to one in five. For Nigerian students studying in this country, 65,000 dependant visas were issued in 2022 to only 59,000 students.

We do not want to do anything that would harm the international reputation of our universities, but it is right that we pay particular concern to pressure on housing supply and public services, to integration and community cohesion and to making good on our commitment to the British public that we will bring down net migration, which is what the vast majority of the public want to see done.

**John Redwood (Conservative):** When we invite people to our country, it is important that there is good provision of housing, school places and healthcare, but there are huge stresses on the system. Can the Minister give the House some guidance on how much the capital and revenue set-up cost is for a migrant family coming in? When we were in the EU some time ago, it reckoned the cost was €250,000 for a migrant coming to an advanced country.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Obviously that cost varies widely depending on the country of origin and the skills of those individuals. The points-based system is set up in such a way as to encourage higher-skilled individuals to come to the UK for work purposes, but my right hon. Friend is right to say that it is a relatively accessible system, and that has meant large numbers of people entering the UK for a range of different reasons in recent years. We should be acutely concerned about the pressures that is putting on housing supply, public services and integration, particularly in those parts of the country with heated housing markets, such as the one he represents. That is why it is right that we take action of the kind we are taking today. ...

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour):** International students are much-valued contributors to our world-class higher education system, which is a great asset to our country. We and Universities UK recognise that a tenfold increase in the number of dependants joining

students in the UK since 2018 creates significant challenges and that enforcement measures are long overdue. ...

However, as usual, the Government have failed to deliver an impact assessment for the new rules and have left many of the details vague. How many people will this change affect, in terms of both students and dependants? What will the actual impact be on the numbers? The Office for National Statistics defines an immigrant as somebody who has been here for more than a year or who is coming for more than a year, yet masters students are typically here for less than a year.

What is clear is that dependants of students are only a fraction of the story. In their 2019 manifesto, the Conservatives acknowledged that the Brexit vote was a bid to take back control of immigration, but since then net migration has skyrocketed from 226,000 to 500,000, which is a record high even if we exclude Ukrainians and Hongkongers. The number of work visas has increased by a staggering 95%. ...

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... We want to ensure that we bring net migration down. We consider that to be a solemn promise to the British public, and an important manifesto commitment. This is a significant policy, which I am glad to hear the hon. Gentleman support, that will make a tangible difference on this issue. It will reduce very substantially the number of people coming into the country as dependants, but there might be more that needs to be done. We are determined to tackle this issue and to ensure that we bring net migration down.

**Greg Clark (Conservative):** ... most students are temporary visitors, yet many of them are counted as permanent immigrants. Has my right hon. Friend considered changing the definition to include in the count only those who stay?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I respect my right hon. Friend and his deep knowledge of this area, but I do not think it is helpful to change the way in which the statistics are reported. I do think that we have to consider the fact that anyone coming into this country will place pressure on our housing supply and on public services, particularly if they are bringing dependants, including young children or elderly relatives, into the UK. In the present climate, in which there is significant pressure on public services and significant pressure on housing, particularly in certain parts of the country, that is extremely important.

We have seen, historically, that the vast majority of students leave the country and go back to their home country to continue their careers and lives. It is too early to say whether the graduate route will make a material difference to that. It may be, if individuals come to the UK to study and then spend a period of time here on the graduate route, and certainly if they bring dependants, that we will start to see a significant increase in the number of people staying here, making a life in the UK and not returning home, in which case policies of this kind will become more important. ...

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** ... Research published by the Higher Education Policy Institute last week shows that, in 2021-22, the benefit to the UK of international students stood at £41.9 billion, with every single constituency on these islands seeing a benefit. When their dependants come with them, those husbands or wives are often working—they are not a burden to the state—and they have to pay the immigration health surcharge as well.

What is the evidence for the policy the Minister has brought forward? ...

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We did think very carefully about this measure and had detailed conversations with colleagues across Government, including of course the Department for Education, and indeed with universities. ...

The measures we are putting in place will ensure that there will still be a route for student dependants to come to the UK for research courses, such as PhDs, where people will be here for a sustained period of time, but there will not be that route when people are here for short courses. To give the hon. Lady an example, last year there were 315,000 foreign masters students in the UK. These are very large

numbers of individuals, and if those people were to bring dependants at scale, it would put pressure on public services and on housing in the UK. I am surprised the hon. Lady does not appreciate that, particularly given the state of some public services in Scotland. ...

**To read this very long question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-24/debates/A595223D-107C-47C9-B336-DF885D1FEC74/StudentVisas>

*The research referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.hepi.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Full-Report-Benefits-and-costs-of-international-students.pdf>

### **Small Boat Crossings**

**Suzanne Webb (Conservative)** [905044] What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to reduce the number of small boat crossings of the English channel.

**Tom Randall (Conservative)** [905055] What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to reduce the number of small boat crossings of the English channel.

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** Our Illegal Migration Bill will end illegal entry as a route to asylum in the United Kingdom, breaking the business model of the people-smuggling gangs and restoring fairness to our asylum system.

**Suzanne Webb:** Tackling illegal immigration, like small boats, is a hot topic for many of my constituents; I hear about it time and again on the doorstep, and I see it in my inbox. Can my right hon. Friend assure the people of Stourbridge that it is this Government who can be trusted to make every possible effort to address this complex problem and ensure we stop the illegal boats?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** My hon. Friend is absolutely right. The Prime Minister and I are determined to stop the boats—we are doubling the number of UK-funded personnel in France, and for the first time specialist UK officers are embedded with their French counterparts—whereas I am afraid the Labour party has consistently voted against our measures, not just in the Illegal Migration Bill but in the Nationality and Borders Act 2022. We know that Labour Members would scrap Rwanda. The truth is that they do not want to stop the boats; they want to open our borders.

**Tom Randall:** In a recent interview, the Leader of the Opposition was unable to say whether he would repeal the Public Order Act 2023, which protects the public against seriously disruptive protests. Given this flip-flopping on key legislation, does my right hon. Friend agree that it is only this Conservative Government who can be trusted to stop the boats, and that it is entirely possible that the Opposition, having tried to vote down the Illegal Migration Bill several times, will change their mind on that as well?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** My hon. Friend makes a very good point. ... They are in favour of campaigning to keep foreign criminals in the country, yet they want to scrap our Rwanda plan. This Government, this Conservative Prime Minister and this side of the House are focused on stopping the boats, taking the fight to the militant protesters and standing up for the British people.

**Andrew Gwynne (Labour):** Last December, the Prime Minister promised that the Home Office would recruit another 700 new staff to the small boats operational command. How many of those 700 staff are now in post?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** Last year, the Prime Minister set out a detailed plan on how we are stopping the boats. The hon. Gentleman is right to refer to our increased personnel on our small boats operational command. I am pleased to say that we are making very good progress on increasing the personnel working on the channel. We have increased the number of caseworkers, we are making progress

on our asylum backlog and we are increasingly bearing down on this issue.

**Dan Jarvis (Labour):** Afghans make up one of the largest cohorts of small boat migrants, in part because the legal routes are not working. Let me give the Home Secretary a quick example. Families who have been approved under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy are stuck in Islamabad and are now being told that they need to source their own accommodation to get here, but there is no published guidance on how they should go about doing that. Given the obvious challenges of securing accommodation, not least if they are stuck in a hotel room in Pakistan, can the Home Secretary say precisely what support her Department is providing to this cohort of people who are stuck in Pakistan?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** Both the Afghan relocations and assistance policy and the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme make clear the criteria by which people will be assessed when they are applying to come to the United Kingdom. I am proud that this country and this Government have welcomed over 20,000 people under those schemes. Of course there will be individual cases and we are happy to consider them, but overall the scheme has worked well and thousands of people have benefited from it.

**Edward Leigh (Conservative):** One of the justifications for using former military bases rather than hotels was that they would be a deterrent. We now learn from the Home Office that RAF Scampton will not take people from hotels, but that it might be a detention centre or it might take migrants from Manston. The whole policy is in chaos. Is that why the Home Secretary's own civil servant, on 6 February, recommended to her that the Home Office should agree to stop work on proposals for RAF Scampton and agree that it should immediately notify the local authority that it was no longer developing proposals for the site? Why has the Home Secretary ignored her own civil servants?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** ... What I would gently say to him is that we have over 40,000 people accommodated in hotels today and we are spending over £6 million a day on that accommodation. It is an unacceptable situation, and that is why the Prime Minister and I have made it a priority to bring on and deliver alternative, appropriate and more cost-effective accommodation.

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op):** The problem is that there are no safe and legal routes. I have children in my constituency who are separated from their parents because they were brought to the UK under the UNHCR scheme and their parents cannot now come and join them. They have moved from Afghanistan to Pakistan, but they have no means of coming here to be with their children. Why is the Home Secretary keeping families apart as opposed to reuniting them?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I just do not agree with the hon. Lady's characterisation. ... I am incredibly proud of the immense generosity that the Conservative Government and, more importantly, the British people have demonstrated over recent years. We have welcomed over half a million people seeking humanitarian protection to these shores through safe and legal routes. On top of the country-specific routes, there are non-country-specific routes through which people can apply. The reality is that we have millions of people seeking to come here and we have to take a balanced approach, but overall we have extended the hand of generosity and we have a track record of which we can be proud.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-22/debates/7EDF4A3E-495F-4A1F-BBD8-4F65B2BF6453/SmallBoatCrossings>

### **Visa Applications from Afghanistan: Women and Girls**

**Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [905039]** What steps her Department is taking to support women and girls applying for UK visas from Afghanistan.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** More than 24,000 people have arrived in the UK from Afghanistan under or since Operation Pitting,

of whom 21,000 have been resettled under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy or the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme. There is not a visa application centre in Afghanistan for security reasons, but those who have left the country can make a visa application in the normal way. The ACRS is designed to support vulnerable people such as women and girls at risk.

**Munira Wilson:** For the fourth time in recent weeks, I feel compelled to raise on the Floor of the House the case of five British children who have been in hiding in Kabul for the past 18 months. Four of those British passport holders are girls and only one of them is allowed to attend school. I and my team have not been able to bring them to safety, to be with their family in the UK, because their Afghan mother cannot secure a visa. I am grateful that the Minister has looked at this case personally, but it has stalled again, because his officials are insisting she travels to Pakistan to do her biometrics. He will be aware that it is totally unsafe for a woman to risk her life to travel on her own, without a chaperone, to Pakistan to get a visa, even if Pakistan grants her a visa to travel there. So please, will the Minister waive the requirement for biometrics in this case and those of other women and girls who face mortal danger, as this family does?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... I intervened personally to seek a swift resolution to this case. I am told that UK Visas and Immigration has the application under consideration and is speaking with the hon. Lady's office to help progress the application, and I hope we can resolve it very soon. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-22/debates/54A36E7D-01F8-49FF-934A-2D5E19A0E7EC/VisaApplicationsFromAfghanistanWomenAndGirls>

#### **Yarl's Wood: Serco**

**Richard Fuller (Conservative) [905040]** What discussions [has the Minister] had with representatives of Serco on improvements to security at the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** The Government take the protection of the public and security incidents at immigration detention centres extremely seriously. I met senior Serco executives on 4 May to discuss their response to the incident at Yarl's Wood in my hon. Friend's constituency. An independent investigation into the incident is now under way; we will consider its findings in detail.

**Richard Fuller:** ... I understand that all but one of those who absconded have been rearrested, and that arrests have been made of others who have facilitated people being out of detention. However, there remain serious questions to be answered, both about the comparative ease with which people were able to abscond from the facility and about the interaction between Serco and the police. Will my right hon. Friend please look at those issues?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... He is correct that of the eight men who escaped, only one now remains at large and we are determined to find him as quickly as possible. There are robust security measures in IRCs, but they are now being reviewed again in the light of this incident. I have met senior Serco executives to hold them to account for their conduct and to ensure that they take the incident extremely seriously. I know that my hon. Friend will be visiting Yarl's Wood soon; I would be very happy to speak to him and understand his reflections.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-22/debates/70BA1ADC-50A9-43AD-BBA0-A0A721816487/Yarl'SWoodSerco>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Visas: Afghanistan

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [186012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to issue visas to parents in Afghanistan whose children have leave to remain in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help relocate some of the most at-risk people in Afghanistan and, so far, we have brought around 24,500 vulnerable people to safety. This includes those evacuated during Operation Pitting and those relocated and resettled under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

For those evacuated from Afghanistan under the ACRS without their immediate family members, further information will be made available in due course about options for reuniting with them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186012>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Geoffrey Cox (Conservative)** [184922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan citizens have been granted resettlement under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to date; what discussions she has held with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on its processes for assessment of Afghan citizens under that scheme; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the UNHCR's processes; and if she will take steps to encourage the UNHCR to expedite its consideration and referral of cases to that scheme of vulnerable Afghan nationals based in Pakistan.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The latest [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#) (published on 23 February 2023), show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the Afghan schemes – the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - have resettled a total of 21,387 people.

Under the scheme's second pathway, which opened in 2022, we have now begun to receive the first referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan for resettlement to the UK. The latest Immigration statistics show that we have now welcomed the first people to the UK under Pathway 2.

We anticipate receiving referrals from UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of pathway 2, although this number will be kept under review.

UNHCR refer those who qualify as refugees in need of resettlement. They have access to detailed case information – which is gathered during interviews conducted during the different stages of resettlement processing – and they have a detailed knowledge of the circumstances refugees face in host countries.

If UNHCR consider that an individual should be referred to the UK for resettlement, they will send the Home Office a Resettlement Registration Form (RRF) which confirms that the individual has been determined by UNHCR to be a refugee and details the reasons why that person is in need of resettlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/184922>

*Information about Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [185578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer 17 May 2023 to Question 184350 on Refugees: Afghanistan, how many of those eligible in the first stage of ACRS Pathway 3 have been resettled in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Since 31 December 2022, the UK has granted settled status to over 7,600 individuals under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) as a whole. We have welcomed the first arrivals to the UK under the first stage of Pathway 3 and look forward to welcome all remaining individuals under this stage as soon as practicable.

Further information on the number of individuals resettled under this pathway will be detailed in the next edition of the quarterly Immigration Statistics. The latest release is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185578>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184350>

*Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [185396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason asylum seekers from Afghanistan are required to find their own accommodation in the UK; and if she will make it her police to set up an equivalent scheme for Afghans to the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help relocate some of the most at-risk people in Afghanistan. So far, we have brought approximately 24,500 vulnerable people to safety, including thousands of people eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

We do not want to see Afghan families already in the UK in bridging accommodation for any longer than is necessary. That is why we have been working across government to support families into settled accommodation so that they can fully integrate into their local communities, feel safe and independent, and rebuild their lives in the UK.

The government has established the “Find Your Own” accommodation pathway which empowers Afghan families to source their own accommodation. Council support staff in hotels will work closely with households to help them navigate the pathway.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-16/185396>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at*



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [186068] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 April 2023 to Question 181358 on Afghanistan: Refugees, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of introducing a scheme equivalent to the Homes for Ukraine scheme on the availability of accommodation in the UK for the approximately (a) 218 principals and 968 dependents assessed eligible under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy Scheme and (b) 74 principals and 230 dependents assessed eligible under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme, who are in UK-funded accommodation in Pakistan and other third countries; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help relocate some of the most at-risk people in Afghanistan and, so far, we have brought around 24,500 vulnerable people to safety, including thousands of people eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

It is vital that those arriving have somewhere suitable to stay once they are in the UK. So, for those on ACRS and ARAP whom we have not yet brought to the UK, we will only facilitate travel where suitable accommodation can be secured ahead of arrival. This includes where individuals can be supported to arrange accommodation themselves.

We continue to work closely with local authorities as well as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Defence to source suitable accommodation, in order to be able to welcome more Afghans.

The UK already operates a scheme which enables civil society to provide housing and provide integration support to refugees resettled to the UK. This scheme is open to refugees of all nationalities who are referred through the UK Resettlement Scheme or the ACRS, including those currently in hotels in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186068>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181358>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

### Refugees: Hotels

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [186099] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in hotel bridging accommodation have been served an eviction notice; and what proportion of those people have rejected a principal offer of accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** This is operational data, and we will not be providing running commentary on the numbers of Notice to Quits issued. We have started issuing three month notice periods to resettled Afghans living in hotels and serviced accommodation, alongside guidance explaining next steps and the extensive government support available so they can find their own accommodation. We will continue to do all we can to support Afghans, so they can carry on rebuilding their lives here.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186099>

## Refugees: Afghanistan

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [186097] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many ARAP-eligible Afghans have (a) successfully managed to find their own accommodation and (b) have been relocated to the UK by following the guidance on independently sourcing accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The latest [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#), published on 23 February, show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the ACRS and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) have resettled a total of 21,387 people.

They also show that over 9,000 people have now been supported into settled accommodation (This breaks down as c.8,500 moved into homes with an additional c.500 matched but not yet moved). The figures are not currently broken down into ACRS/ARAP individuals or families.

The government is providing £285 million of new funding to local authorities supporting the Afghan resettlement schemes. This includes £35 million which will go towards increasing the level of support available as well as a £250 million expansion of the Local Authority Housing Fund to help councils to source homes for Afghans currently in bridging accommodation.

This new, generous package of support comes in addition to the existing support available for people on the ACRS and ARAP schemes, including access to welfare system, the right to work and full access to public services.

The move from hotels into settled accommodation is in the best interests of families and individuals and will enable them to benefit from the freedoms of independent living that only suitable non-hotel accommodation can provide.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186097>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

### Visas: Ukraine

**Deidre Brock (SNP)** [184832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Ukrainian crew members working on cruise ships in the UK will be eligible to apply to one of the visa schemes for Ukrainian nationals, including the Ukrainian Extension Scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Both the Ukraine Extension Scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme can be applied for by Ukrainian nationals in the UK, who meet the eligibility criteria – which can be found on GOV.UK ([UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals](#)).

Ukrainian nationals seeking to travel to the UK for sanctuary must use either Homes for Ukraine, or the Ukraine Family Scheme.

Individuals are able to contact an independent Immigration Adviser registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) for advice relevant to their own circumstances. Further guidance is available on GOV.UK ([Find an immigration adviser: Search for an adviser](#)).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-12/184832>

### Refugees: Motor Vehicles

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [185092] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether his Department plans to provide support to refugees who wish to register their vehicles in the UK.

**Reply from Richard Holden:** My Department recognises the difficult circumstances of Ukrainians arriving here fleeing the conflict. As such, to support the registration of Ukrainian vehicles we have permitted some temporary modifications to be accepted in certain circumstances where a Ukrainian visa holder vehicle requires Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA), such as the use of beam deflector stickers. Specific agency personnel have also been assigned to support Ukrainians who wish to register their vehicle. The Department continues to explore options for how it can further support the Ukrainian community, I will keep this House and the Ukrainian community in the UK updated on this work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/185092>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

### Immigration: Fees and Charges

**Tim Loughton (Conservative)** [185470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a fee waiver for indefinite leave to remain applications for young people on the five-year route to settlement under the Immigration Rules Appendix Private Life who can demonstrate that they cannot afford the fee after meeting essential living costs.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The right to stay indefinitely is one of the most valuable entitlements offered for those seeking to enter or remain in the UK, and it is right that the fee should be higher than most for migrants staying temporarily in the UK.

A grant of indefinite leave to remain is not necessary to enable people to remain in the UK on the basis of their Article 8 or other ECHR rights, as these can be met through a grant of limited leave to remain. The provision of an affordability-based waiver for limited leave on family and private life routes allows an individual or family to remain here lawfully, and to then apply for settlement and pay the fee when the funds become available. As such, there are no plans to waive the fee for indefinite leave to remain.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185470>

### Visas: Families

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [185481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people entered the UK on family visas in each year since 1997.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The number of people entering the UK on family visas does not form part of any current transparency data or migration statistics and is not published.

The transparency data and migration statistics do, however, include a range of processing data relating to family visas and can be found at:

[Migration transparency data](#)

and

[Migration statistics](#)

Data on family visas from 1997 to 2011 is not published. Data on family visas is published from 2012 onwards and can be found at:

[Migration statistics](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185481>

## Overseas Students: Visas

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [185082] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has made an assessment of the adequacy of the support available to families moving to the UK on a student visa.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** As set out in the government's International Education Strategy and subsequent updates, the department is committed to working with the higher education sector to enhance the international student experience, and to ensure they have an enjoyable and valuable experience whilst in the UK. Details of the strategy are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth>

This includes working closely with organisations such as the UK Council for International Student Affairs, who offer a range of information and guidance for those travelling on a student visa. This information is available at:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

In addition, universities provide a range of dedicated support to their international students at pre-arrival, on-arrival and during their studies. This includes welcoming services, transitional support and visa advice.

As set out in Home Office guidance, international students and their families who come to the UK on a student visa are required to have money to support themselves for the duration of their studies. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Generally, to qualify for student support from Student Finance England, a person resident in England must have settled status or a recognised connection to the UK. This includes persons who are covered by the EU Withdrawal Agreement, have long residence in this country or who have been granted international protection by the Home Office. There are also requirements associated with ordinary residence in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/185082>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

## Migrants: Domestic Abuse

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [185692] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of support available for migrant victims of domestic abuse.

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [185693] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish its response to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's second report into migrant survivors Safety before status: the solutions published in December 2022.

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [185694] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to ensure that migrant victims of domestic abuse are aware of the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession whilst their DVILR application is considered.

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [185695] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support migrant victims of domestic abuse in the UK.

**Reply from Sarah Dines:** Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for this Government. Information on support for victims, including guidance on the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC), can be found on the [Domestic abuse: how to get help](#) page on GOV.UK. Further advice and support can be accessed through Government's '[Enough](#)' Campaign.

The DDVC allows for eligible migrant victims to apply for the lifting of the no

recourse to public funds condition associated with their leave, enabling the victim to access welfare benefits while their application for indefinite leave to remain as a victim of domestic abuse is made and considered. The DDVC has operated since 2012 and is widely known throughout the specialist domestic abuse sector.

We recently announced that we are providing a further £1.4 million in 2023/ 24 to continue to fund the Support for Migrants Victim scheme, ensuring we maintain support for migrant victims of domestic abuse regardless of their immigration status. This support includes accommodation, subsistence, legal advice and counselling. The Home Office is grateful to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for publishing the 'Safety Before Status: The Solutions' report and to the Commissioner's team and external partners for researching the vital issue of support for migrant victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

We will continue to engage with the Commissioner's office on recommendations set out in the report, and across government. We have already begun to take forward work that stems from some of the recommendations.

We are giving detailed consideration to the findings of this research and considering the wider policies affecting migrant victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Our official response will be published as soon as is practicable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185692>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185693>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185694>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185695>

*Safety Before Status: The Solutions, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1122607/FE02769157\\_Safety\\_Before\\_Status\\_The\\_Solutions\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1122607/FE02769157_Safety_Before_Status_The_Solutions_Accessible.pdf)

### **Migrants: Domestic Abuse**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [185696] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to support victims of domestic abuse.

**Reply from Sarah Dines:** Tackling domestic abuse is a government priority. It is unacceptable and preventable, an issue which blights the lives of millions. In March 2022 the Government published the ambitious Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan which invests over £230 million of cross-Government funding into tackling this heinous crime including over £140 million for supporting victims of which £47 million will be ringfenced for community-based services to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

In March 2023, the Government announced that it was partnering with Women's Aid Federation to trial a £300,000 'flexible fund' in England and Wales in 2023/4. Payments to victims in Wales will be facilitated by Welsh Women's Aid. Launched on 10 May, the 'flexible fund' will make direct cash payments of £250 to victims and survivors (£500 to those with children and/or are pregnant) to help remove barriers to leaving an abusive relationship.

Controlling or coercive behaviour does not stop at the point of separation. Indeed, it can persist and often increase as the perpetrator seeks to retain control over the victim. The Domestic Abuse Act amended the definition of 'personally connected' which removed the 'living together' requirement for the controlling or coercive behaviour offence. On 5 April 2023, the Government extended the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship to remove the co-habitation requirement (section 68). Updated guidance on controlling and coercive behaviour has also been published on GOV.UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-17/185696>

*The Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-domestic-abuse-plan/tackling-domestic-abuse-plan-command-paper-639-accessible-version>

*The guidance on controlling and coercive behaviour referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlling-or-coercive-behaviour-statutory-guidance-framework/controlling-or-coercive-behaviour-statutory-guidance-framework-accessible>

### **Refugees: Sudan**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [185274] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to introduce a designated relocation scheme for Sudanese refugees.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has a proud history of supporting refugees. Since 2015, we have offered a place to just under half a million men, women and children seeking safety in the UK using our global and country specific routes.

The UK continues to welcome refugees through our existing resettlement schemes which include the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and the Mandate Resettlement Scheme. The UK is proud to have welcomed Sudanese nationals through both our UK Resettlement Scheme and Community Sponsorship in 2021 and 2022.

While our safe and legal routes are some of the most generous anywhere, we cannot accommodate everyone who wants to come to the UK, and we are not able to open a bespoke route for every situation. The UK has no plans to introduce a designated scheme for Sudanese refugees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-16/185274>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

*Information about the Mandate Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf)

### **Asylum: Sudan**

**Mohammad Yasin (Labour)** [185383] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to increase the speed at which asylum applications are processed for people from Sudan.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We are carefully monitoring the situation in Sudan.

We are taking immediate action to clear the backlog of 92,601 initial asylum decisions relating to claims made before 28 June 2022 (“legacy claims”) by the end of 2023.

We are increasing the number of caseworkers to 2,500 by September 2023, streamlining interviews where one is required and simplifying guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-16/185383>

### **Asylum**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [905052] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to create safe routes for asylum seekers to enter the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has a proud history of providing sanctuary through our resettlement schemes, with around half a million having used our global and country-specific routes since 2015.

These schemes have provided safe and legal routes for people from anywhere in the world to come here, and as part of the Illegal Migration Bill we have committed

to introduce to an annual quota decided by this House and in consultation with local authorities to determine that number.

In keeping with most other countries around the world, we do not allow asylum claims from abroad. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – the fastest route to safety.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-16/905052>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)** [905049] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress her Department has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We are streamlining and modernising the end-to-end asylum casework process, extending the asylum questionnaire to Iranians and Iraqi nationals, and increasing the number of asylum decision makers by over 48% since July 2022.

The Home Office has already reduced the legacy asylum backlog by over 13,800 cases and we are on track to clear the backlog by the end of 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-16/905049>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [185084] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the impact of preliminary information questionnaires on the asylum decision backlog.

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [185085] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the suitability of preliminary information questionnaires for potentially vulnerable asylum seekers with limited access to legal advice.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** In order to reduce the legacy asylum decision backlog, questionnaires have been sent to legacy claimants from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya, Syria and Yemen as part of the Streamlined Asylum Process.

Questionnaires will also be sent to legacy claimants from Iran and Iraq who make up the highest volume of claimants within the legacy backlog allowing them to provide further information about their asylum claims after their initial screening interview upon arrival.

If a claimant has returned a questionnaire, it will be used to aid the decision maker to conduct a targeted or shorter interview, in turn reducing the duration of interviews, resulting in more efficient decision-making. We will closely review the use of questionnaires.

We understand that people may want to seek legal advice in order to complete the questionnaire and all asylum seekers have access to support through Legal Aid. We consider that the questionnaire can be completed without legal advice because we will contact the claimant or invite them to a personal interview should we require further information. We will not withdraw someone's asylum claim for failure to return the questionnaire alone.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/185084>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/185085>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Harriet Harman (Labour)** [185182] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her department calculates the weekly allowance received by asylum seekers on aspen cards.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The level of the allowance given to those supported under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”) is generally reviewed each year to ensure it meets an asylum seeker’s essential living needs. Reports on the reviews are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-16/185182>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [185086] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department plans to ensure food vouchers are available for asylum-seeking children during school holidays.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are eligible for support under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum 1999 Act. The support provided usually consists of accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly allowance to meet other essential living needs.

Asylum seekers with children also have access to free schooling, including free school meals (FSM).

Whilst FSM is not available to pupils outside of term time, pupils who are eligible for FSM are also entitled to a place on their Local Authority’s Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which provides healthy food and enriching activities over the main holiday periods.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/185086>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op)** [185815] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the ability of asylum seekers to be provided with alternative dispersal accommodation if they are evicted from a house of multiple occupancy.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation whilst their application for asylum is being considered.

In the circumstances where a property was no longer available or a landlord no longer wished to contract with our accommodation providers then if the person was still entitled to asylum support they would be moved to appropriate accommodation elsewhere, dependent upon their specific need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-18/185815>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [186230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria her Department will use to assess whether asylum seekers are suitable to be housed (a) at former Ministry of Defence sites and (b) on barges.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office will ensure that all accommodation is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and meets all regulatory requirements. Upon arrival, asylum seekers’ biometrics are captured and they undergo robust security checks against immigration and police databases. All asylum seekers also undergo health checks and a vaccination programme.

We will assess individual’s suitability to reside at each location and will only accommodate individuals who are considered suitable to reside there. Each person’s suitability will be assessed at regular intervals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186230>



### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [185775] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 May 2023 to Question 184264 on Asylum: Portland Port, for how many people the barge to be used was originally designed.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Bibby Stockholm capacity and configuration varies dependent on client requests. The accommodation barge at Portland Port will have a capacity of 506 asylum seekers. The vessel will contain multiple occupancy rooms that are an appropriate size for the number of occupants in the appropriate space standard. The vessel will always remain in line with marine industry safety regulations and meet all statutory requirements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-18/185775>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184264>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [182292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has placed controls on the ability of the migrants on the barge at Portland Port to come and go at will.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** As with all asylum accommodation sites will be non-detained. There will be no curfew. As a matter of routine, if someone is late returning from a visit off the site, they will be contacted for to ascertain their whereabouts. The vessel will be managed by an experienced accommodation provider under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office. The same supplier has safely and successfully managed two vessels for Ukrainian refugees for the Scottish Government over the past year.

It is being designed to minimise the impact on local communities and services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182292>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184090] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the service provider for the asylum accommodation on a vessel in Portland Port, who will be responsible for providing (a) health and safety work and (b) risk assessments; and what are their relevant qualifications.

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184091] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to asylum accommodation on a vessel in Portland Port, whether the service provider has a system to report (a) accidents, (b) incidents, (c) dangerous occurrences and (d) fatalities, in compliance with the Health and Safety Executive's Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 Guidance; and what discussions she has had with Dorset Council on this.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The vessel will be managed by an experienced accommodation provider, under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office. The same supplier has safely and successfully managed two vessels for Ukrainian refugees for the Scottish Government over the past year. Through the Multi Agency Forum health subgroup, we are working closely with local health colleagues to ensure appropriate health and safety arrangements are in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184090>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184091>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>

### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184092] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the asylum accommodation on a vessel in Portland Port, whether people accommodated on the vessel will be (a) new arrivals from small boats and (b) people currently placed in hotels.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The intention is to accommodate single adult male asylum seekers. Those being accommodated are likely to be of different nationalities. They will already be in the asylum system, having been through robust security checks and health checks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184092>

### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184093] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the asylum accommodation on a vessel in Portland Port, what will happen to people accommodated on the vessel if their asylum claim is later unsuccessful.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Asylum seekers accommodated on the vessel whose claims are refused and have no further appeal rights will be removed from the UK. If people are granted asylum, we will work with local authorities across the UK to provide the support and appropriate accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184093>

### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184094] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the asylum accommodation on a vessel in Portland Port, what plans she has for the provision of law enforcement for detaining vessel occupants suspected of (a) acting criminally and (b) committing antisocial behaviour.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Security forms an integral part of the proposed site. A specialist security provider will be working on site 24/7 and we are working closely with Dorset Police to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place. Any matters relating to suspected criminal activity are reported to the police as a matter of routine.

The safety and security of the local communities, those asylum seekers on the sites and the staff are of the utmost importance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184094>

### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who will provide what medical facilities for the migrants on the barge in Portland Port; and who will be responsible overall for their health.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office expect to provide medical services on site, with detailed planning ongoing. All asylum seekers in the UK may contact Migrant Help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year if they need help, advice, or guidance, that includes raising issues relating to safeguarding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/184980>

### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184981] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the dispersal arrangements are for the migrants on the barge in Portland Port when their time on the vessel comes to an end; where they will then be housed; and what responsibilities Dorset Council will have for them.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The accommodation have been contracted for 18 months. We are assessing how long asylum seekers will be accommodated before

being moved further through the accommodation system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/184981>

#### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184982] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding will be provided to statutory bodies that have responsibilities for the planned migrants on the barge in Portland Port in addition to what has already been promised to Dorset Council and the police.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office has committed to providing funding to help minimise the impact on the local community and local services. Discussions regarding the specific funding arrangements for statutory bodies are ongoing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/184982>

#### **Asylum: Portland Port**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [184983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what role she plans that voluntary bodies and charities will play in regard to the migrant barge in Portland Port; and what funding she plans to provide to those bodies and charities.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We are working with local authorities and the voluntary sector in regular Multi Agency Forum (MAF) meetings to identify potential opportunities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/184983>

#### **Deportation: Hong Kong**

**Neil Coyle (Independent)** [185252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an estimate of the number of people from Hong Kong who have been deported from the UK in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on the number of Hong Kong citizens in the UK awaiting a decision on their asylum application are published in table Asy\_D03 of the '[Asylum applications, decisions and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. The latest data relates to the end of December 2022. Please note that data for year ending March 2023 will be published 25 May 2023.

Data on the number of people from Hong Kong who have been returned from the UK in each of the last 5 years are published in table Ret\_D01 of the '[Detention and Returns detailed datasets](#)'. The latest data relates to the end of December 2022. Data for year ending March 2023 will be published 25 May 2023.

Please note that deportations are a subset of enforced returns.

Guidance on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-16/185252>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

### **Net Migration Figures**

**[The Minister for Immigration's answer given in the House of Commons was read in the House of Lords.](#)**

**Lord Coaker (Labour):** My Lords, net migration figures are at a record high, despite promises in every Conservative manifesto since 2010 to reduce these figures, with the 2019 manifesto pledging that overall numbers would come down. Despite the Minister's

Statement, it has clearly gone wrong and is not working. Would it not be a start to tackle the doubling of work visas? Would it not be a start to end the unfair wage discount in the immigration system, which is undercutting UK wages and exploiting migrant workers? Why allow a civil engineer from Spain, for example, to be paid a 20% lower salary than the going rate for a British civil engineer? Why do the Government not tackle migration by barring employers and companies from recruiting foreign workers unless they are paid the going rate? Would that not be a start to tackling the migration problem?

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Migration and Borders (Lord Murray of Blidworth):** Clearly, the increase in net migration has been the result of global events, such as the world recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and international events, as I outlined in the Statement, including the policy changes introduced as part of the new immigration system at the end of EU freedom of movement. All have had an impact on migration. The Migration Advisory Committee agrees that the discount available to employers employing foreign workers under the skilled worker route is a sensible solution for occupations where there are shortages, at least in the short term. However, no occupation should be on the shortage occupation list for ever. Sectors must therefore present a realistic strategy for ending their reliance on migration before such jobs can be added to the shortage occupation list, and present compelling evidence that they should remain.

**Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat):** ... The pull factors in migration are that we have not been investing enough in education and training, and that companies have found it easier to recruit staff from abroad than to spend money training their own in too many instances. ... There are also the push factors—climate change, conflict in other countries and, potentially, expulsion. ... The UK Government might wish to emphasise that we cannot manage migration without active international co-operation with our neighbours and others ...

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ... Of course it is right that the Government discuss international migration issues on a regular basis. ... We recognise that no single measure will control immigration. As the impacts of temporary pressures become clearer, we will keep matters under review. The Government will continue to strike the balance between reducing overall net migration and ensuring that businesses have the skills that they need. We continue to support economic growth.

**Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative):** My Lords, does my noble friend accept that a promise was made at the time of the referendum campaign that immigration would be reduced? Looking ahead to the forecast for this current year, mindful that he said in his reply that net figures would reduce, will the illegal migration forecast for 2023 be higher or lower than the figures that he has given us today?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ... it is certainly clear that the measures we have announced on the student route reform ... will have a considerable effect in reducing the levels of migration in those categories for the year commencing January 2024. ...

**Lord Bilimoria (Crossbench):** My Lords, the Prime Minister has five priorities. One of them is to stop illegal migration through the boats crossing the channel. Everyone agrees that we must do everything we can to stop them. Another of his priorities is to grow the economy. If the Prime Minister wants this, why are we restricting businesses from getting the labour force they need if they cannot get it domestically? ...

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The noble Lord neatly identifies the balancing act that needs to be performed by the Government on net migration. Clearly the Government cannot permit circumstances to arise where employers utilise foreign labour over domestic labour for the pursuit of greater profit. ...

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** My Lords, will the Minister confirm that, of today's high figure, asylum seekers account for approximately 8%, and that, even if the Bill we discussed yesterday and will discuss the week after next were to reduce that figure to zero, it would make

virtually no difference to the net migration figures?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The whole point of the Illegal Migration Bill is to prevent dangerous and illegal journeys across the channel and by other routes. It is addressing a different, specific issue, obviously with the added benefit that eliminating illegal migration would go towards the reduction of the net migration figure. But it is not suggested that the Bill is the sole answer to the problems arising from excessive net migration. ...

**To read this very long question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-25/debates/F0E3B124-F153-4543-8471-CA99A456E95C/NetMigrationFigures>

### Student Visas

**[The Minister for Immigration's answer given in the House of Commons was read in the House of Lords.](#)**

**Lord Coaker (Labour):** My Lords, the contribution of international students to our universities and, indeed, our communities, is immense and a great asset to our country. Since 2018, there has been a tenfold increase in the number of dependants joining students in the UK, so we have not opposed the changes the Government propose. However, as usual with the Government, there is no impact assessment and no detail—just vague assertion. What assessment have the Government made of the number of people this change will affect in terms of both students and dependants, and what do the Government believe will be the actual impact of these rule revisions on the numbers?

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Migration and Borders (Lord Murray of Blidworth):** ... The numbers are these. In March 2023, 477,931 sponsored study visas were granted to main applicants, which was 22% more than in March 2022. In the year ending March 2023, almost one-quarter, 24%, of all sponsored study-related visas granted were to dependants of students—149,400—compared with 15% in the year ending March 2022. Our indication is that 88% of those dependant visas were to those undertaking taught postgraduate courses, so the rule changes will have the effect of greatly reducing the availability of the dependency visas to those who might otherwise have used them, and therefore reduce the net intake.

**Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat):** ... Is this a real problem, or is it part of the muddle of our migration statistics? Should we not be separating students who come here for either one or three years as temporary migrants and distinguish them from permanent migrants? The problem of our current migration statistics is that they lump everyone together, which as a result makes the whole problem look worse than it is.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** I am afraid that I must disagree with the noble Lord: it is a real problem, for the reasons I have just read out to the Chamber ... The numbers are startling and required action to change the rules ...

**Baroness Blackstone (Labour):** ... Why are we continuing to define international students as immigrants when they are clearly not in that category? Is he aware that nearly all OECD countries that have international students in considerable numbers do not define them as immigrants or migrants? They define them in a special category as overseas students. Why do we not move to doing that?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** It is clear that the students who have these visas are entitled to work for 20 hours a week, the dependants of students are entitled to work in an unrestricted way and they are obviously users of services provided by the state. For all those reasons, it makes sense that they be included in the net migration figures.

**Lord Bilimoria (Crossbench):** ... Why do we keep including international students in our net migration figures? It is wrong and fooling the public. The USA and Australia treat them

as temporary migrants, which is what they are. If you exclude international students from the net migration figures, maybe the Government will hit the targets they have wanted to hit for so many years.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ... these changes will ensure that the UK's higher education establishments are focused on recruiting students based on economic value and not on dependants, whose value in terms of student fees and wages is minimal. ...

**To read this very long question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-25/debates/BA3AFE79-F6B5-468E-A292-09DEDD8B1329/StudentVisas>

### **Windrush Generation: 75th Anniversary**

**Baroness Berridge (Conservative):** To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush generation on 22 June, and what progress they have made in relation to those plans.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (Baroness Scott of Bybrook):** My Lords, we expect Windrush Day 2023 to be a bigger national event than any year to date. In January, the Government announced that they are increasing this year's Windrush Day grant scheme from £500,000 to £750,000 to mark the 75th anniversary, with funds aimed at commemorating, celebrating and educating people about the contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants. We will announce all successful projects shortly. In addition, we are progressing several further events across government to celebrate and honour the Windrush legacy on this important milestone.

**Baroness Berridge:** ... As I am sure she is aware, many of that generation came for better education and opportunities for their children, so it is sad to note that the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities found that the only ethnic minority group not out-performing their white counterparts at age 16 is the black Caribbean and mixed white and black Caribbean cohort. Can the Minister please ask whether Windrush scholarships, in FE as well as HE, could be established?

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** My noble friend brings up a really interesting idea, and I will certainly take it back to my colleagues in the Home Office. ...

**Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, I wrote to the Prime Minister in February suggesting that, like his predecessors, he host a reception at No. 10 to celebrate Windrush Day and to meet the Windrush community and Windrush victims to hear their harrowing stories. I have not received a reply. He did not attend the Stephen Lawrence 30th memorial service, despite being down to speak. The Windrush community is questioning his support for them, so can the Minister assure the House that the Prime Minister is intending to demonstrate that he cares about the Windrush 75th anniversary? Column 860 is located here

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** I am afraid I cannot give that sort of information about what the Prime Minister is doing for Windrush, but I can say that across government there are numerous events going on. For a start, the Foreign Secretary has visited Jamaica only recently and discussed the positive contribution that Caribbean immigration had made to the fabric of the UK. The Ministry of Defence is using Windrush 75 as part of its Armed Forces Week, and we will be announcing plans in due course about what other departments will be doing to celebrate.

**Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour):** My Lords, in addition to parties and such celebrations, which I am sure we all welcome, might the Government not remember the Windrush

generation by adequately compensating all those who are still waiting for justice—and not getting any younger?

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** We are paying out continually under the compensation scheme, and the Home Office continues to make improvements to how easily people can access that scheme. We have paid out £59.55 million across 1,599 claims to the end of March 2023, a further £11.11 million has been offered and is awaiting acceptance, and a final decision has been made on 62% of the claims—so we are working on this. We are working with claimants on how we can make it easier and will continue to do so.

**Lord Kamall (Conservative):** I thank my noble friend the Minister for sharing the plans to celebrate the Windrush generation, but can we make sure that we celebrate the full diversity of that generation—not just the Afro-Caribbeans but the Indo-Caribbeans and Chinese-Caribbeans who came to the UK and worked in public services? I declare a personal interest in that my father came in 1952 on two boats: one from Guyana to Trinidad, and then one from Trinidad to the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** My noble friend is absolutely right that we should celebrate the whole generation and that group of communities. Looking at what is happening in London and Birmingham, I am sure that all those communities will be represented and celebrated.

**Lord Dobbs (Conservative):** My Lords, is my noble friend aware of the beautiful statue in Waterloo station commemorating the Windrush generation? It shows a father looking forward with ambition and determination, accompanied by a mother and a young daughter looking around with expectation and trepidation. They are standing on a pile of suitcases, which mark all their possessions in the world. There is an accompanying poem called “You Called ... We Came”.

I hear the Minister’s reflections on the amount that has already been paid out, but there are still some outstanding claims. One wonders whether it is bureaucratic difficulties, rather than genuine will, driving that. Could not all those outstanding claims be settled almost in an afternoon, with people—including Ministers, with all their genuine determination to get this fixed—sat around a table, rather than having the ongoing questions that the noble Baroness, Lady Chakrabarti, has asked about when this will finally be settled?

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** First, yes, the monument is beautiful; if anybody has not seen it, they should do so. It is very moving and beautiful. The Home Office is making the compensation payments as quickly as possible, but each person’s claim is deeply personal and deserves to be processed with the utmost care and sensitivity, so that the maximum payment can be made to them. That is the way we are going to deal with these claims.

**The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford:** My Lords, the way that this country welcomes a stranger has never been more important, as we will be reminded later today when we debate the Illegal Migration Bill. Why are His Majesty’s Government, but more specifically the Home Secretary, rowing back on the commitments they made following the *Windrush Lessons Learned Review*, especially on the establishment of a new migrants’ commissioner?

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** The right reverend Prelate is referring to the Wendy Williams recommendations. Home Office officials looked at them and recommended to the Home Secretary that three of them are not needed. Extensive consideration has been given to how we deliver all the recommendations in an appropriate and meaningful way, ensuring that individuals have the opportunities to tell all their stories, amplifying the voices of individuals, engaging with the immigration system and driving scrutiny of the department. We think that those recommendations are unnecessary at the moment.

**Lord Khan of Burnley (Labour):** My Lords, we all owe enormous gratitude to the Windrush generation, who played a pivotal role in rebuilding the Britain that we know today.

The Minister may recall that, during a debate in January, I asked her for a timetable for the Home Office's implementation of the Wendy Williams recommendations. Unfortunately, less than a week later, the Home Secretary announced that some measures would not be delivered. I ask the Minister today for an update on the implementation of the measures the Government are committed to. It is tragic that the Home Secretary has not learned the lessons of that appalling scandal. Are the Government still not introducing the proposed safeguards to strengthen the borders inspectorate?

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** As I said in a previous answer, we will not be implementing those three recommendations. I probably have not got time to address here how far we have got with the other recommendations, but I will write to the noble Lord once I get that detailed information from the Home Office.

**Baroness Blower (Labour):** Does the Minister agree that on the occasion of this anniversary, it would be extremely fitting for His Majesty's Government to announce that anti-racism should be an explicit part of the national curriculum, to be taught in all our schools in England?

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** That should be discussed and decided by the Department for Education; but now, when we are celebrating the wonderful part that the Windrush generation has played in our society, is not the time for us to discuss that.

**Lord Polak (Conservative):** My Lords, the 75th anniversary is perhaps a good moment for the Government to look at the issue of frozen pensions. Many people came over, helped to rebuild Britain, went back to retire in their home countries in the Caribbean and found that their pensions had been frozen, thereby missing out on thousands of pounds. Can the Minister go back to the department and find a way to alleviate this problem?

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** Yes, my noble friend is right: it is an issue and a problem. I will make sure that the Home Office is working on it and we will give him an update.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-24/debates/39F65B69-D889-4719-9E14-52263F803194/WindrushGeneration75ThAnniversary>

*The report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)*

*The Lessons Learned Review referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874022/6.5577 HO Windrush Lessons Learned Review WEB v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf)*

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Rwanda Refugee Policy

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Asylum

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7797]** To ask His Majesty's Government which safe third countries they have made an agreement with for the purposes of processing asylum claims for people coming to the UK via irregular routes, as outlined in the Illegal Migration Bill; and how many individuals are logistically possible to be processed in each in each of those countries in (1) 2023, and (2) 2024.

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7798]** To ask His Majesty's Government which safe third countries they expect to make deals with in (1) 2023, and (2) 2024, for the purposes of processing asylum claims as outlined in the Illegal Migration Bill for people coming to the UK via irregular routes.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** We have agreed a Migration and Economic



Development Partnership with Rwanda, whereby those arriving in the UK through dangerous, unnecessary, and illegal methods may be relocated there to have their asylum claim considered. This arrangement is uncapped.

We are unable to comment on discussions or negotiations that may be being held with other countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7797>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7798>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

### Asylum: Children

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7796]** To ask His Majesty's Government what was the percentage of total asylum claims for unaccompanied children seeking asylum for each of the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office publishes data on the proportion of total asylum applications lodged in the UK that were made by UASCs in each year in the Immigration system statistics quarterly release on gov.uk. These statistics are published in the Asy\_01a table of the asylum summary tables which is attached.

Further information on these statistics can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook tab. The latest data relates to the end of December 2022.

Data for January to March 2023, is due to be published 25th May 2023.

[Asy\\_01a - Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7796>

### Immigration Controls: Families

**The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL7772]** To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of families with children that will be (1) detained, and (2) removed, under the Illegal Migration Bill in 2024.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** As set out in clause 1(1), the purpose of the Bill is to prevent and deter unlawful migration, and in particular migration by unsafe and illegal routes, by requiring the Home Secretary to return illegal migrants to their home country or remove them to a safe third country.

An economic impact assessment will be published for the Bill in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7772>

### Asylum: Children

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7795]** To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 10 May (HL Deb, col 1924), what evidence they have collected since 2014 that leads them to conclude that excluding children from immigration detention would "incentivise the people smugglers" to target children to smuggle to the UK.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The purpose of the Illegal Migration Bill is to prevent and deter all unlawful migration, and in particular migration by unsafe and illegal routes. Those who arrive illegally will be liable to detention and will be swiftly removed to their home country or to a safe third country.

The organised people smuggling criminal gangs can be expected to exploit any exceptions or loopholes in the scheme provided for in the Bill, a point made by a number of noble Lords at Second Reading. An economic impact assessment will be published for the Bill in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7795>

*The remarks referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-10/debates/FC2D65CD-6FC8-42EA-AB0E-F460E02CF2D0/IllegalMigrationBill#contribution-54052C60-53E9-403E-B12E-3415FAD59DF0>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Touhig (Labour)** [HL7803] To ask His Majesty's Government under which legal provision the Home Office has assumed child protection powers for unaccompanied migrant children.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** We expect local authorities to meet their statutory obligations to children from the date they arrive in the UK. The best place for these young people is and will remain within a local authority care placement. The Home Office is not currently in the position of corporate parent to any unaccompanied child.

There is nothing in the Illegal Migration Bill which changes this position.

It will continue to be for the local authority where an unaccompanied child is located to consider its duties under the Children Act 1989.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7803>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat)** [HL7794] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 10 May (HL Deb, col 1924), whether unaccompanied children seeking asylum who are to be detained under the Illegal Migration Bill are to be placed in "age appropriate accommodation", where these age-appropriate accommodation will be; what services will be provided in them, and by whom, that make them age appropriate; who will be responsible for the children placed there in terms of the duties in section 17 and 20 of the Children Act 1989; and who will have ultimate responsibility for running these accommodation.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The welfare of those who are detained is taken seriously. Where a decision is made to remove an unaccompanied child under 18, detention will be for the shortest possible time. The detention powers within the Bill can only be exercised to detain an unaccompanied child in specific circumstances that will be set out in regulations.

We will build upon our current detention facilities to ensure they provide appropriate, safe and secure accommodation. This includes working closely with the Department of Education and local authorities to ensure there are proper support provisions in detention for unaccompanied children.

The Home Secretary is responsible for all people in detention, including the day-to-day care of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7794>

*The remarks referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-10/debates/FC2D65CD-6FC8-42EA-AB0E-F460E02CF2D0/IllegalMigrationBill#contribution-54052C60-53E9-403E-B12E-3415FAD59DF0>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Children**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7686] To ask His Majesty's Government how many children they predict will be subject to the duty to remove under Clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill in 2024.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The purpose of the Illegal Migration Bill is to prevent and deter unlawful migration, and in particular migration by unsafe and illegal routes.

The duty to make arrangements for removal under clause 2 of the Bill only applies

to children who are part of a family group. We do not inadvertently create incentives for people smuggling to target vulnerable individuals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/hl7686>

### **Undocumented Migrants**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7689] To ask His Majesty's Government what they plan will happen to a person whose protection or human rights claim is deemed inadmissible under Clause 4(2) of the Illegal Migration Bill but who cannot be removed from the UK.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The purpose of the Illegal Migration Bill is to prevent and deter unlawful migration, and in particular migration by unsafe and illegal routes, by requiring the Home Secretary to return illegal migrants to their home country or remove them to a safe third country.

Under clauses 2 and 5 of the Bill, the Home Secretary is under a duty to make arrangements for the removal of a person who meets the conditions in clause 2 as soon as is reasonably practicable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/hl7689>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Detainees**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7690] To ask His Majesty's Government how many people they forecast will be detained under the powers contained in Clause 12 of the Illegal Migration Bill in (1) 2024, (2) 2025, and (3) 2026.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The purpose of the Illegal Migration Bill is to prevent and deter unlawful migration, and in particular migration by unsafe and illegal routes.

Those who arrive illegally will be liable to detention and will be swiftly removed to their home country or to a safe third country. The powers to detain are contained in clause 10 of the Bill.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/hl7690>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Detainees**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7691] To ask His Majesty's Government what role, if any, the detention gatekeeper will have in relation to decisions to detain people under Clause 12 of the Illegal Migration Bill.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The powers to detain are contained in clause 10 of the Illegal Migration Bill. The detention gatekeeper will continue to have a role in assessing an individual's suitability for detention, in line with published policy.

The detention gatekeeper works independently of both referring operational teams (for example Border Force, Immigration Compliance and Enforcement & others) and detained casework teams (National Returns Command, Foreign National Offenders Return Command and others) to ensure individuals only enter immigration detention where detention is for a lawful purpose and is considered to be a proportionate measure on the facts of the case.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/hl7691>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Detention Centres**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7773] To ask His Majesty's Government whether additional detention sites to detain those subject to the duty to remove under clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill will operate under the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

### **Undocumented Migrants: Detainees**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7774] To ask His Majesty's Government whether an individual subject to the duty to remove under clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill will be

considered for release from detention if a rule 35 report is brought to the attention of the Home Office.

### **Immigration: Detention Centres**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7776] To ask His Majesty's Government what guidance they follow in assessing whether a place of immigration detention is appropriate.

**Reply from Lord Murray of blidworth:** The Illegal Migration Bill creates new detention powers which will allow the Home Secretary to detain a person pending a decision as to whether they meet the four conditions and the new duty to remove applies, and thereafter to detain pending their removal.

All Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) must operate in compliance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, this includes any additional sites that are opened as IRCs to increase detention capacity.

The purpose of rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 is to ensure that people in detention who are particularly vulnerable are brought to the attention of those with direct responsibility for authorising, maintaining and reviewing detention. This rule applies to all people who are detained under immigration powers in IRCs, regardless of the immigration power they are detained under. Rule 35 is a reporting mechanism, and where a report is completed, it does not automatically mean that the person should be released.

An individual's placement in detention is considered on a case-by-case basis with account to the most suitable IRC that can meet their needs. Our [Detention: General Instructions](#) provides guidance on this process.

We only detain persons for immigration purposes in places that are listed in the Immigration (Places of Detention) Direction 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7773>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7774>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7776>

*The Detention Centre Rules 2001, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2001/238/contents/made>

*The Immigration (Places of Detention) Direction 2021, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-places-of-detention-direction-2021/the-immigration-places-of-detention-direction-2021-accessible-version>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Deportation**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL7775] To ask His Majesty's Government whether an individual who has been deported due to being subject to the duty to remove under clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill will be able to return to the UK via a safe route, if a human rights challenge against their deportation is successful following a remote hearing.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Illegal Migration Bill provides for Judicial Review but these are non-suspensive. Any JR will be dependent on its particular facts and the Government will comply with relief granted by the courts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/hl7775>

### **Human Trafficking: Prosecutions**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [HL7713] To ask His Majesty's Government how many prosecutions were undertaken of people smugglers in each of the last three years for which data are available.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office works tirelessly, with other national and international law enforcement authorities, to tackle migrant smuggling gangs who organise and profit from illegal crossings and to bring to

justice the ruthless criminals behind them.

We are determined to go after the callous people smugglers who exploit vulnerable people in difficult circumstances and put them in life-threatening situations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/hl7713>

### Human Trafficking

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL7757]** To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to apprehend people smugglers operating routes into the UK.

**Lord Murray of Blidworth:** This Government remains focused on doing everything we can to disrupt the people-smuggling gangs responsible for the dangerous Channel crossings. Our law enforcement agencies work tirelessly to tackle the criminal networks who facilitate people smuggling from source countries to Europe and then the UK, knowingly putting people in life-threatening situations.

Since its inception in 2015, the UK's dedicated Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) taskforce has achieved more than 1,400 arrests (both in the UK and overseas), with suspects sentenced to more than 1,300 years in prison.

Following the Prime Minister's commitment on 13 December to stop the dangerous small boats crossings, co-ordinated by ruthless, organised criminals. And every single journey risks the lives of women, children and - we should be honest - mostly men at sea.

That is why we are doubling the funding for the Operation Invigor. The increased funding will aim to double the number of disruptions and enforcement activity against OIC and the criminal gangs that facilitate it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/hl7757>

### Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

**Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL7291]** To ask His Majesty's Government, how many people have been (1) prosecuted, and (2) convicted, for offences of human trafficking in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, for each of the past five years.

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) holds no data showing the number of convictions for human trafficking offences in England and Wales under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

However, data is held showing the number of defendants prosecuted and convicted where the human trafficking monitoring flag has been applied to case records. The table below shows the number of prosecutions and convictions for defendants during each of the last five years in England and Wales.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Prosecuted	294	349	267	466	405
Convicted	191	251	197	332	282

Data Source: CPS Case Management Information System

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/hl7291>

### Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

**Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL7292]** To ask His Majesty's Government how many people have been (1) prosecuted, and (2) convicted, for offences of people smuggling under the Immigration Act 1971, for each of the past five years.

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** The Immigration Act 1971 contains offences (including those created by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022) for assisting and facilitating unlawful immigration into the United Kingdom.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not hold any data which shows the number of defendants in England and Wales charged with, prosecuted and convicted for people smuggling offences created by the Immigration Act 1971.

However, management information for England and Wales is held showing the number of offences charged by way of S25 (Assisting unlawful immigration to member State or the United Kingdom), S25A (Helping an asylum-seeker to enter United Kingdom) and S25B (Assisting entry to United Kingdom in breach of deportation or exclusion order) of the Immigration Act 1971 in which a prosecution commenced in each of the last five years. The table below shows the number of these offences to the latest available year, 2022, in England and Wales.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Immigration Act 1971 {25}	309	291	139	249	155
Immigration Act 1971 {25A}	8	5	2	134	6
Immigration Act 1971 {25B}	1	0	0	5	0
Data Source: CPS Case Management Information System					

The figures relate to the number of offences and not the number of individual defendants. It can be the case that an individual defendant is charged with more than one offence against the same complainant. No data is held showing the final outcome or if the charged offence was the substantive charge at finalisation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/hl7292>

## Press Release

**International migration hits new high in 2022 but there are signs of change**

<https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2023/05/25/international-migration-hits-new-high-in-2022-but-there-are-signs-of-change/>

## New Publications

**Long-term international migration, provisional: year ending December 2022**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrationprovisional/yearendingdecember2022/pdf>

**Population and migration estimates - exploring alternative definitions: May 2023**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/populationandmigrationestimatesexploringalternativedefinitions/may2023/pdf>

**Migrant journey: 2022 report**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrant-journey-2022-report/migrant-journey-2022-report>

**Updated: Overview of the immigration system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

**Updated: Summary of latest statistics**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/summary-of-latest-statistics>

**Updated: Statistics on Ukrainians in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/statistics-on-ukrainians-in-the-uk>

**Updated: How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

**Updated: Why do people come to the UK? To work**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

**Updated: Why do people come to the UK? To study**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

**Updated: Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

**Updated: How many people do we grant protection to?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/how-many-people-do-we-grant-protection-to>

**Updated: How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

**Updated: How many people are detained or returned?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2023/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

**Visas and citizenship data: Q1 2023**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1158614/UKVI\\_VSI\\_Transparency\\_Q1\\_2023\\_Published.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1158614/UKVI_VSI_Transparency_Q1_2023_Published.ods)

**Immigration Enforcement data: Q1 2023**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1158618/IE\\_Q1\\_2023\\_Published.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1158618/IE_Q1_2023_Published.ods)

**EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, March 2023**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-march-2023/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-march-2023>

**Windrush Task Force Data: Q1 2023**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1158613/UKVI\\_VC\\_WRTF\\_Q1\\_2023\\_Published.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1158613/UKVI_VC_WRTF_Q1_2023_Published.ods)

**Updated: Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

**People displaced from Ukraine - interviews: summary report**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-report-interviews-people-displaced-ukraine-living-scotland-people-hosting/>

**Analysis of Ukrainian nationals entering employment in the UK**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1158973/Counts\\_of\\_Ukrainian\\_Nationals\\_in\\_Employment\\_-\\_March\\_2022\\_to\\_March\\_2023.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1158973/Counts_of_Ukrainian_Nationals_in_Employment_-_March_2022_to_March_2023.ods)

### **Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by age and sex of applicant**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1158985/Ukraine\\_Sponsorship\\_scheme\\_visas\\_-\\_by\\_age\\_and\\_sex\\_to\\_31\\_March\\_2023.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1158985/Ukraine_Sponsorship_scheme_visas_-_by_age_and_sex_to_31_March_2023.ods)

### **Irregular migration to the UK, year ending March 2023**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2023/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2023>

### **Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

### **Updated: Diphtheria: cases among asylum seekers in England, monthly data tables**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-weekly-data-tables>

### **Living in dispersal accommodation**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-in-asylum-accommodation/living-in-dispersal-accommodation-english>

### **Accommodation and integration support for resettled Afghans**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9804/CBP-9804.pdf>

### **Stoking the Flames: the influence of tabloid press and government rhetoric on far-right anti-migrant engagement**

<https://hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Stoking-the-Flames.pdf>

## **News: Rwanda Refugee Policy**

### **Suella Braverman says UN guilty of ‘hypocrisy’ over Rwanda plan**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-says-un-guilty-of-hypocrisy-over-rwanda-plan-xqfb008j6>

## **News: Channel Migrants**

### **Asylum backlog puts Sunak’s pledge to stop the boats in peril**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-net-migration-figures-latest-news-rishi-sunak-braverman-brx5lqp3l>

### **Justin Welby: It is bishops’ duty to speak out on Channel crisis**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/justin-welby-archbishop-canterbury-migration-bill-2023-jkkz8rz6g>

## **News: Ukraine**

### **Ministers warned over ‘worrying’ fall in Ukrainian school pupils**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23537110.ministers-warned-worrying--fall-ukrainian-school-pupils/>



## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Migration figures: Rishi Sunak denies he's lost control of rising migration**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65705629>

**Rishi Sunak warns uncontrolled migration creating 'unmanageable pressure'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/23/managed-migration-schools-hospitals-rishi-sunak-integration/>

**Immigration figures to hit new high as fresh crackdown looms**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-net-migration-figures-2023-cjz30tn06>

**Migration is soaring – but there's more to the figures than meets the eye**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/22/net-migration-suella-braverman-new-figures-ons/>

**Fears mount that net migration will soar as high as 800,000**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/24/net-migration-rise-to-800000-fear/>

**Britain can't sustain this level of immigration**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-cant-sustain-this-level-of-immigration-dlctxljpk>

**Raise migrant salary limits to stop firms undercutting British workers, Rishi Sunak told**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/25/raise-migrant-salary-limits-immigration-rishi-sunak/>

**Most demanded visas and immigration numbers revealed in 10 graphs**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/25/migrant-crisis-graphs-that-tell-story/>

**Who is allowed to come to live in the UK?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48785695>

**Top economist calls for 'lenient' migration rules**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65677581>

**Braverman bill could lead to 3,000 asylum seekers being deported a month**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/25/braverman-bill-could-lead-to-3000-asylum-seekers-being-deported-a-month>

**Suella Braverman looks to tighten family visa rules amid record migration**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-looks-to-tighten-family-visa-rules-amid-record-migration-57bkpfv29>

**Changes to student visa route will reduce net migration**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-student-visa-route-will-reduce-net-migration>

**Braverman announces crackdown on foreign students bringing family to UK**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/braverman-foreign-students-ban-immigration-b2344134.html>

**Suella Braverman announces ban on families of foreign students**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-announces-ban-on-families-of-foreign-students-l8qscln6m>

**Braverman announces new limits on overseas students bringing family to UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/may/23/suella-braverman-restrictions-overseas-international-students-family>

**Braverman to crack down on visas for families of foreign students**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/23/suella-braverman-foreign-students-net-migration-dependants/>

**UK immigration: YouTube influencer says 'some people hide behind studentship'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65684594>

**Proposed UK laws are labelling refugees as criminals, says European report**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/25/proposed-uk-laws-are-labelling-refugees-as-criminals-says-european-report>

**PACE committee urges UK to carefully consider provisions of recent Bills that 'risk breaching international obligations'**

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/9107/pace-committee-urges-uk-to-carefully-consider-provisions-of-recent-bills-that-risk-breaching-international-obligations->

**Home Office starts ad campaign to deter Albanian migrants**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65735660>

**200 Albanian offenders to be sent home from UK cells in prison transfer scheme**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-prison-transfer-albanians-to-be-sent-home-b2344590.html>

**The need for honest debate about immigration**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-need-for-honest-debate-about-immigration-vlrw6mbb6>

**Research reveals link between government's anti-migrant rhetoric and far-right activity**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/research-reveals-link-between-governments-anti-migrant-rhetoric-and-far-right-activity/>

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## Community Relations

### Press Release

**Independent review launched into civil unrest in Leicester**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-launched-into-civil-unrest-in-leicester>

### New Publication

**A Jewish-Christian Glossary**

[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/108745/ocr23-01\\_a-jewish-christian-glossary\\_a4\\_v4.pdf](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/108745/ocr23-01_a-jewish-christian-glossary_a4_v4.pdf)

## News

**Humza Yousaf says coming from minority gives ‘important perspective’**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23551857.humza-yousaf-says-coming-minority-gives-important-perspective/>

**Humza Yousaf: Being a minority gives you important perspective**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/humza-yousaf-being-a-minority-gives-you-important-perspective-hk6sldmmj>

**Chief Rabbi hails ‘important step’ for improved Jewish-Christian relations in Scotland**

<https://www.thejc.com/news/community/chief-rabbi-hails-important-step-for-improved-jewish-christian-relations-in-scotland-41P3d7oKNnVPh43aKx7Cj6>

**Chief Rabbi tells the General Assembly of journey towards healing through dialogue**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/chief-rabbi-tells-the-general-assembly-of-journey-towards-healing-through-dialogue>

**Chief Rabbi hails ‘important step’ for Jewish-kirk relations**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/chief-rabbi-hails-important-step-for-jewish-kirk-relations-x7z26878s>

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## Equality

### New Publication

**Making History Teachers: The role of teacher training and teacher education**

[https://pure.manchester.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/261547564/Runnymede\\_CoDE\\_Briefing\\_Teacher\\_Training\\_FINAL.pdf](https://pure.manchester.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/261547564/Runnymede_CoDE_Briefing_Teacher_Training_FINAL.pdf)

### News

**Closing race employment gap ‘could add £36bn to economy’**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/race-employment-gap-ps36bn-economy-b2345838.html>

**New TUC analysis finds BME workers are more likely to be unemployed than white workers**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/unemployment-rate-over-twice-high-bme-workers-white-workers>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

**Police Scotland (Institutional Discrimination)**

**Douglas Ross (Conservative):** ... Let me be clear: the vast majority of Scotland’s front-

line police officers do a fantastic job under incredible pressure. However, a new report to the Scottish Police Authority raises a number of serious concerns about systemic issues throughout Police Scotland. The independent review found “first hand” instances of “racism, sexism and homophobia”.

In response, the chief constable of Police Scotland, Sir Iain Livingstone, said this today: “It is right for me as chief constable to clearly state that institutional racism, sexism, misogyny and discrimination exist.”

He continued: “Police Scotland is institutionally discriminatory and racist.”

What is the First Minister’s response to the chief constable’s statement?

**Reply from the First Minister (Humza Yousaf):** ... First and foremost, I commend Sir Iain Livingstone, the chief constable of Police Scotland, for acknowledging institutional racism, misogyny and other discriminatory behaviours within Police Scotland. That is the first step that is required in order to dismantle the institutional and structural barriers that exist.

Douglas Ross is right to emphasise that this is not a criticism of individual police officers, who we know put themselves in harm’s way to protect us day in and day out, but there is no doubt that institutional racism exists in our society. I take the opportunity to say, as a person of colour, that the chief constable’s statement is monumental and historic. I remember raising the issue of racism in Strathclyde Police, as the force then was. I was stopped and searched more than a dozen times when I was a boy, when I was in my car, walking with my friends in the street or at airports.

The chief constable’s acknowledgement is very welcome indeed. I hope that it also serves as a reminder to all of us that, whatever organisation we belong to, we have a responsibility to question the organisations that we lead—and that is certainly the case for me in the organisation I lead—and to reflect on whether we are doing enough to dismantle not only institutional racism but the structural discrimination that exists for many people because of disability or sexual orientation or because they are women.

I welcome the chief constable’s statement. As he himself has said, now that the acknowledgement has been made, it is so important that we see action to dismantle those barriers. I say once again that I take my responsibility as First Minister seriously and that I rededicate myself to doing everything that I can to dismantle the barriers of institutional racism, misogyny, bigotry and discrimination where they exist here in the Scottish Government and to doing all that I can do right across society in that regard.

**Douglas Ross:** The chief constable also said this today: “When an organisation doesn’t have all the necessary policies, processes, practices and systems in place to ensure that doesn’t happen, it’s an institutional matter.”

The SPA report also found “significant concerns about the absence of effective performance management systems during the first decade of Police Scotland’s existence” So, the problem is wider and is systemic. It starts far from the front line, with management and leadership. Does the First Minister agree? Given that he has just rededicated himself to tackling the issue, what urgent action will his Government take in response to the SPA report and the chief constable’s statement?

**Reply from the First Minister** Those in management and leadership positions absolutely have to bear responsibility. In particular, in organisations that we lead, it is our responsibility to examine the evidence, collate the data and come to a conclusion about the structural barriers that exist. That is true for me as the First Minister and I am certain that Douglas Ross will reflect on the organisation of the political party that he leads. That is an important point for those who are in management or leadership.

For all the disagreements that I have had with Anas Sarwar, one phrase that he

uses captures the issue very well: this is a “fight for us all”. That is absolutely right. Although management and leadership absolutely have a role to play, we all have a role to play in our organisations in confronting those barriers and reflecting on what more we can do to undermine them.

I am committed to working with Police Scotland. However, above and beyond that, I want to make sure that, for all organisations—in particular, those in the public sector—we collect the data, we have a view on the structural barriers that exist, and then we work with senior management and leadership, right across the public sector in particular, although I also challenge the private sector in this regard, to dismantle the barriers that we know have existed and still exist right across our society.

**Douglas Ross:** The SPA review also found “outright fear” among officers about bringing forward complaints. At paragraph 5.8, the report notes: “We heard of people being ‘punished’ for raising issues or concerns”.

It is so clearly unacceptable that police officers who raised concerns internally were “punished”. We must surely all agree that officers should be able to raise legitimate concerns without suffering any consequences.

My party has raised officers’ concerns about the broken police complaints system for some time. It is clearly not fit for purpose. Given the severity of the report to the Scottish Police Authority, and the chief constable’s statement, will the First Minister vow to change the current complaints system and the process within the force that in the past has let down and continues to let down front-line officers who raise legitimate concerns?

**Reply from the First Minister** That is a very fair point from Douglas Ross. We are already taking forward work from Dame Elish Angiolini’s review and various reports from His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland in that regard. If there is more work that we can do, I absolutely commit to responding to the challenge that Douglas Ross and others have raised of looking at the complaints process.

Process is one thing, and it is important that we look at having the correct process. However, culture is equally if not sometimes even more important. That is why the chief constable’s statement was so monumental. It demonstrates from the very top of the organisation that that culture is simply not acceptable. It is important that that permeates down through the ranks.

I go back to the point that Douglas Ross has made. Of course, I will absolutely seek to do what more can be done about the process that is in place. As I have said, we are taking forward the recommendations of Dame Elish Angiolini’s review and various HMICS reports in that regard, but I welcome the statement from the chief constable. It is about more than just process, although process is important. Culture is vital, too.

**Douglas Ross:** Dame Elish Angiolini’s report was published in 2020. Three years on, officers are still commenting about a system that is broken. My party has been raising that in the chamber for some time. The further report to the SPA and the chief constable’s statement today make that a crucial issue that must be dealt with with the utmost urgency. The SPA report also found that front-line pressures have left officers without the time to take part in vital training exercises. It found that officers did not feel that they had time to deal with legitimate complaints and grievances, because they were so stretched with their responsibility to maintain public order. It found: “The greatest challenge we heard, and observed, to driving cultural change within the service was the pressures on frontline resourcing.”

Unison has said that there is a £74 million shortfall in the policing budget. Absolutely none of that excuses discrimination, but it is a serious problem that limits Police Scotland’s ability to change its culture and leaves thousands of first-class officers without the resources that they need to do their job. Does the First Minister accept that Scotland’s police officers are being asked to do too much with too little?

**Reply from the First Minister** I do not agree with that characterisation. I re-emphasise a point that Douglas Ross just made. Of course, funding—and he is absolutely within his rights to question us in relation to our funding—can never be an excuse for institutional racism, institutional misogyny or institutional discrimination wherever it exists. That is a point that, in fairness, Douglas Ross himself has made, but I just want to re-emphasise it.

In terms of the funding that we provide for Police Scotland, despite UK Government austerity over the years, we have increased police funding year on year since 2016. We have invested more than £11.6 billion in policing since the creation of Police Scotland in 2013.

Of course, police officer numbers are operational matters for the chief constable, but the latest comparable data that we have shows that there are 30 police officers per 10,000 in Scotland. That compares favourably with 24 officers per 10,000 in other parts of the UK, in England and in Wales.

As for what more we can do to reduce the burden on police officers, which again is a very fair and legitimate point for Douglas Ross to raise, we are doing a fair bit of work in relation to the mental health call-outs that police officers often have to attend and which we know take up a significant amount of their time. I am happy to write to Douglas Ross with the detail of that work that we are progressing.

As for the crux of the questions that Douglas Ross is asking, we have been working alongside policing partners to deliver Dame Elish Angiolini's recommendations. To date, 58 of those recommendations have been delivered and, given the urgency of the issue, the Government will introduce later this year the police complaints and misconduct handling bill to deliver on the recommendations.

I go back to the central point, which I think that everybody will agree with. It is so important for institutional racism and other discriminatory behaviours to be recognised. What, then, is really important is to work together to ensure that we dismantle those barriers, and I am certainly committed to doing so. I have no doubt that the chief constable is committed to that, too, and I am certain that whoever succeeds him in his role will also look to do so.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15330&i=130743#ScotParlOR>

*The Chief Constable's statement, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/may/chief-constable-statement-on-institutional-discrimination/>

*The SPA report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.spa.police.uk/spa-media/ohkcuxfm/item-6-police-scotland-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-independent-r.pdf>

*The Angiolini report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-review-complaints-handling-investigations-misconduct-issues-relation-policing/>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Theatre Royal Stratford East: Ethnic Groups

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [186005] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will hold discussions with Arts Council England on the potential implications for its funding of the Theatre Royal Stratford East of that theatre hosting a play to which white people have been asked not to attend.

**Reply from John Whittingdale:** Decisions made by Arts Council England (ACE) about the allocation of funding for National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs),

including the Theatre Royal Stratford East, are taken at arm's length from HM Government. This is in accordance with well established processes, and as such, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) does not review individual funding decisions. Management of these grants is a matter for ACE, including determining whether any grant terms and conditions have been breached.

Neither DCMS nor ACE are involved in the day-to-day running of the theatre or its artistic programme. However, ACE sets high standards for organisations it funds regarding inclusivity. It is a standard condition of Arts Council funding agreements for National Portfolio Organisations that they must "comply with any relevant laws or government requirements and comply with best practice in governance, reporting and operation. This includes (but is not limited to) [...] following best practice in having appropriate and effective policies and procedures in place concerning equality and diversity, harassment and bullying, and in complying with those policies and procedures; [...] having an equal opportunities policy in place at all times and act[ing] at all times without distinction and in compliance with all relevant equality legislation.". Arts Council England's relationship framework with its NPOs also sets out an expectation that organisations will be aware of these risks arising from programming decisions when planning activity and that they will be proactive with responses and mitigations to any risks that have been identified. Lord Parkinson, as the relevant minister, has requested further information on this case from Arts Council England.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-22/186005>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### **Racial Violence: Government Assistance**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL7845] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support people experiencing racist assault.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Government takes all forms of hate crime, including race hate crime, seriously. We expect the police to investigate these hateful attacks and make sure the cowards who commit them feel the full force of the law.

Our absolute priority is to get more police onto our streets, cut crime, protect the public and bring more criminals to justice. We are supporting the police by providing them with the resources they need, including recruiting 20,000 extra police officers. The Government has worked with the police to fund True Vision, an online hate crime reporting portal, designed so that victims of hate crime do not have to visit a police station to report. The Government also funds the National Online Hate Crime Hub, a central capability designed to support individual local police forces in dealing with online hate crime. The Hub provides expert advice to police forces to support them in investigating these offences.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/hl7845>

*The True Vision website, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://www.report-it.org.uk/your\\_police\\_force](https://www.report-it.org.uk/your_police_force)

*Information about the National Online Hate Crime Hub, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://www.report-it.org.uk/reporting\\_illegal\\_online\\_hate\\_material\\_to\\_the\\_p](https://www.report-it.org.uk/reporting_illegal_online_hate_material_to_the_p)

## Press Release

### **Chief Constable statement on institutional discrimination**

... Police Scotland has grown into an organisation known to be compassionate, values

based, and highly competent. It is well regarded nationally, extremely well regarded internationally, but I know it can improve, must improve.

Institutional racism, sexism and institutional discrimination have become iconic terms in the vital battle to tackle injustice. Police officers and staff, including police leaders, can be conflicted both in acknowledging their existence and in using such terms, fearing it would unfairly condemn dedicated and honourable colleagues or that it means no progress has been made since the 1990s.

Truly, I recognise and understand that conflict. I have experienced that conflict myself over a number of years.

The meaning of institutional racism set out by Sir William Macpherson in 1999 in his report on the appalling murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993 is, rightly, very demanding.

The phrase, the terminology, however, can be and often is misinterpreted or misrepresented as unfair and personal critical assessments of police officers and police staff as individuals.

That is not the case.

Does institutional discrimination mean our police officers and police staff are racist and sexist? No. It absolutely does not. ...

However, it is right for me, the right thing for me to do as Chief Constable, to clearly state that institutional racism, sexism, misogyny and discrimination exist. Police Scotland is institutionally racist and discriminatory. Publicly acknowledging these institutional issues exist is essential to our absolute commitment to championing equality and becoming an anti-racist Service. It is also critical to our determination to lead wider change in society. ...

There is no place in Police Scotland for those who reject our values and standards. ...

Every officer in Scotland swears an oath when they take up the Office of Constable to do their duty with fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality, upholding human rights and according equal respect to our fellow citizens, according to law. Such an oath rightly requires high levels of personal accountability. ...

But we know, I know, people from different backgrounds or with different requirements don't always get the service that is their right. We know that, for the same reasons, our own officers and staff don't always have the experiences they deserve. When an organisation doesn't have all the necessary policies, processes, practices and systems in place to ensure that doesn't happen, it's an institutional matter.

A candid, clear, assessment of institutional discrimination means recognising our absolute duty to provide just and effective policing for all according to their specific needs and circumstances. It also requires identifying and removing the deep-rooted barriers to achieving this. These are necessary steps to progress the commitment that Police Scotland will be anti-racist ...

The onus is on us, the police service, to address gaps and challenge bias, known or unwitting, at every level, wherever bias occurs, to maintain and build confidence with all communities.

Recognising institutional discrimination, institutional racism, in my view, is a statement of reality. The real challenge, the real test, is how are we working to address it, what are we doing about it? ...

We are actively, genuinely, listening to under-represented communities, inside policing and across our country and beyond, to understand how we can better serve them.

We are investing to give every police leader the skills and tools they need to build inclusive, effective teams. We are committed to increasing our knowledge and learning on inclusion.

We are open, we want to know more. We are committed to regularly and actively challenging and changing our own policies and procedures to eradicate unwitting bias. ...

Our intention, my intention, is to move towards meeting the ambition set out by Sir William Macpherson to eliminate racist prejudice and disadvantage and demonstrate fairness in all aspects of policing.

A great strength of policing in Scotland is our diversity - anyone can be a police officer. We



will attract, retain and promote a diverse workforce which reflects and represents our communities. ...

Of course, our operational response to reports from women; from people with black or Asian heritage; people who have disabilities; LGBTI citizens; anyone from a minority group; is vital, crucial, in maintaining the confidence of all our communities. The confidence to come forward, the confidence to know you will be treated fairly, treated with respect and with assurance that Police Scotland will respond professionally and with compassion to your own particular circumstances, characteristics and needs. ...

Injustice and discrimination are insidious wrongs with deep roots in history and our work to address institutional discrimination will and must continue ... Acknowledging institutional discrimination, acknowledging institutional racism will, I believe, act as a catalyst to drive and embed progress. ...

Recognition that institutional racism exists within Police Scotland is a key step, a fundamental step forward towards being an inclusive Service which champions equality for all the people of Scotland. ...

Understanding and recognising institutional racism and all forms of institutional discrimination within Police Scotland can, and should, be a source of confidence and optimism for officers and staff, for our organisation, that, collectively, we can lead necessary change in the Service and, indeed, contribute to change across society. ...

Scotland as a whole must commit ourselves to that purpose. The Police Service of Scotland is committed that mission, committed to ensuring our police service, your police service and institutions are, together with the people of Scotland, building fairness, equality and justice.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/may/chief-constable-statement-on-institutional-discrimination/>

## New Publications

**Scottish Police Authority Paper from the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights Independent Review Group**

<https://www.spa.police.uk/spa-media/ohkcuxfm/item-6-police-scotland-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-independent-r.pdf>

**Understanding Jewish Experience in Higher Education**

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Understanding-Jewish-Experience-in-Higher-Education.pdf>

**A Good Practice Guide: Eight Simple Steps for Facilitating Jewish life and Tackling Antisemitism in Higher Education**

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/A-Good-Practice-Guide.pdf>

**Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: Fifth Opinion on the United Kingdom**

<https://rm.coe.int/5th-op-uk-en/1680ab55b4>

## News

**Police Scotland chief says force is institutionally racist**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65706748>

**Police Scotland: Racism, sexism and homophobia uncovered in review**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65686066>

**Police Scotland chief constable says force is institutionally racist**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/25/police-scotland-chief-constable-says-force-is-institutionally-racist>

**Police Scotland chief admits force 'is institutionally racist and discriminatory'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/police-scotland-humza-yousaf-scotland-first-minister-holyrood-b2345663.html>

**Yousaf welcomes police chief's 'historic' statement on racism within force**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/humza-yousaf-police-scotland-sheku-bayoh-douglas-ross-unison-b2345783.html>

**Police Scotland officers offended at chief's racism remarks**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65720669>

**Rank and file anger over Chief Constable's 'institutional racism'**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23549099.rank-file-anger-chief-constables-institutional-racism/>

**'Reluctance' within police to admit some officers are racist and sexist – lawyer**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/police-scotland-police-scotland-unison-met-b2345891.html>

**Police Scotland chief's racism remarks condemned as 'sabotage'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-scotland-chief-constable-ian-livingstone-dh6dt030w>

**What is the impact of Police Scotland admitting it is 'institutionally racist'?**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/the-steamie-what-is-the-impact-of-police-scotland-admitting-it-is-institutionally-racist-4160229>

**Police Scotland: Why racism and sexism is down to failures of leadership at every level**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/police-scotland-why-racism-and-sexism-is-down-to-failures-of-leadership-at-every-level-euan-mccolm-4160838>

**What is institutional racism and why is it controversial?**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-is-institutional-racism-and-why-is-it-controversial-rw75grjd0>

**'Racist' police 'pinned Nazi-themed posters on office wall'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/05/24/dorset-police-force-racist-nazi-salute-misconduct-hearing/>

**Martin Forde KC: 'The left has a tendency to be smug about racism'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/martin-forde-kc-the-left-has-a-tendency-to-be-smug-about-racism-s3kv3f5n8>

**Post Office used racist terms for sub-postmasters in official guidance**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65730464>

## **PlayFight: The adultification of Black children**

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/playfight-the-adultification-of-black-children>

## **National minorities in the UK: European experts report troubling levels of antigypsyism and the need to further support linguistic minorities**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/national-minorities-in-the-uk-european-experts-report-troubling-levels-of-antigypsyism-and-the-need-to-further-support-linguistic-minorities>

## **'Whiter than white' remark to black worker ruled not racist**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/whiter-than-white-remark-to-black-worker-ruled-not-racist-6sz7fzqjl>

## **Roger Waters' Manchester gig should be banned, says MP**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-65716550>

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## **Other UK Parliament and Government**

### **UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer**

#### **Schools: Festivals and Special Occasions**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [185093] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if her Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing Muslim students to take additional time off school during Eid.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Schools must authorise a pupil's absence if it is on a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the parent belongs.

The Department does not define which specific days schools should authorise for religious observance, though generally, it may be a day when the pupil's parents would be expected by the religious body to which they belong to stay away from their workplace to mark the occasion. The Department advises schools to seek advice from the relevant religious body if they are in doubt.

Parents may apply to the school for a leave of absence that is linked to a religious day. Unlike days that the religious body have exclusively set apart for religious observance, such leave is authorised at the discretion of the school.

Schools and Local Authorities may consider taking further steps to manage the effect of such absence, including setting term dates around days for religious observance, working with local faith groups to develop guidance on absence for religious observance, taking INSET days that coincide with religious observance days, and providing individual support for pupils who miss sessions for this reason.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/185093>

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## **Cost of Living**

### **Scottish Government Website**

#### **Help during the cost of living crisis**

Most households are concerned about the cost of living, with worries about issues such as

rent and mortgages, food and utility bills, energy costs, and debt.

In response, the Scottish Government has launched a new website that provides information to help people access support with

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing

Your local council might be able to help if you need urgent help with money, food or fuel – contact the council for information.

<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

## News

**Plans for supermarket price cap on basic food**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65736944>

**Food prices remain worryingly high, says Chancellor Jeremy Hunt**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-65682243>

**Cost of living crisis: Jeremy Hunt urges food manufacturers to curb soaring prices**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jeremy-hunt-food-price-inflation-cost-living-crisis-2023-q96zsxp0v>

**Government rules out more help on energy bills**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65662895>

**Why food bills aren't shrinking - five things to know**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65632019>

**Sky-high food price inflation shows the corner hasn't been turned for struggling families**

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/sky-high-food-price-inflation-shows-corner-hasnt-been-turned-struggling-families>

**Homeowners and renters face 'huge' interest rate shock says Barclays chief**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65696265>

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## Other News

**Scottish Covid inquiry: Public asked to share experiences of pandemic**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65670990>

**Bexhill: Vandalised black woman sculpture cleaned by locals**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-65663490>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

#### **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3257>

#### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3263>

#### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No.2) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3304>

#### **Bill of Rights Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

#### **\*\* British Nationality (Regularisation of Past Practice) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3465/publications>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0313/220313.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0313/en/220313en.pdf>

Human Rights Memorandum

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0313/ECHRMemo.pdf>

Equality Impact assessment

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0313/IA%20.pdf>

Factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-nationality-regularisation-of-past-practice-bill-factsheet/british-nationality-regularisation-of-past-practice-bill-factsheet>

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-24/debates/D6B88F3F-9366-4BDA-99E7-B7B41E93EC9C/PointsOfOrder#contribution-25911A64-FB93-4B54-8259-45268C5E651A>

#### **Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3264>

#### **Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3248>

## **Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3249>

## **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3282>

### **\*\* Illegal Migration Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3429>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-24/debates/9149B2E0-EEF3-4EEF-BA63-A8964ADDAEAC/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-24/debates/95F59B46-53FD-4420-95A7-9A6C2AF262EE/IllegalMigrationBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-25/debates/619A6A9E-6D1F-4007-8171-C00A2BB0B01D/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-25/debates/A33279F3-CCAB-4964-9575-E6192DD5DDA6/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-25/debates/003844E1-1E97-4A7B-AA27-DF1685DBA345/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51260/documents/3461>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51337/documents/3483>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51374/documents/3489>

Letter from Lord Murray of Blidworth to Lord Coaker and others regarding technical Government amendments tabled for the first day of Lords Committee for the Illegal Migration Bill: references to a person's home country, removal of persons to home country

[https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0371/Lord Murray to Lord Coaker-Illegal Migration Bill-Govt amendments.pdf](https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0371/Lord%20Murray%20to%20Lord%20Coaker-Illegal%20Migration%20Bill-Govt%20amendments.pdf)

## **Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3436>

### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-23/debates/76A94AD2-D2E4-414D-85AC-8B02635F6746/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-23/debates/76E93B6E-EE2A-4307-8FDB-3DF78F0526BF/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51336/documents/3482>

## Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3164>

## Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3413>

## \*\* Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9799/CBP-9799.pdf>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

### \*\* *closes this week!*

**Reforming the criminal law to address misogyny** (closing date: 2 June 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/reforming-criminal-law-address-misogyny-scottish-government-consultation/>

**Review of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997** (closing date 18 June 2023)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-review-race-relations-ni-order-1997>

\*\* **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill** (closing date 23 June 2023)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3146/>

\*\* **Let's Be Heard – Sharing Scotland's COVID Experience** (closing date not stated)

<https://lbh.covid19inquiry.scot/>

\*\* **Experiences of Racism in Scotland's Night-Time Economy** (closing date not stated)

<https://t.co/IUabNPI1nK>

**ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

**JPR 2023 Antisemitism in the UK Survey** (closing date not stated)

<https://bit.ly/3Vg7DDH> (Scotland)

and

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/panel/UKantisemitism2023> (UK except Scotland)

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## Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* Creative Communities Glasgow**

*Closing date for applications 30 June 2023*

Glasgow Communities and Place Fund / UK Shared Prosperity Fund grants of up to £80,000 to support and empower communities to develop cultural activities. Projects must be led by their community, and applicants must demonstrate how the project will address priorities in their community, and help overcome the barriers the community faces to creative and cultural engagement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yc8yf4c8>

### **People's Postcode Trust**

*There will be two further opportunities to apply for funding in 2023 but **each will only be open for 24 hours**. Applications can be submitted from:*

*10am on 3 July 2023*

*10 am on 2 October 2023*

*Application forms will go live at the above dates and times and must be **started and submitted** within the submission window. In the meantime, a copy of the application questions can be downloaded in order to help you prepare your submission.*

National Lottery funding of between £500 and £25,000 for projects on a wide range of themes including supporting marginalised groups and tackling inequality. Funding priorities include communities experiencing racial inequity, people with disabilities, and the LGBT+ Community. For information and to apply see

<https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

and

[https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3\\_ppt\\_fundingguide\\_2023.pdf](https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3_ppt_fundingguide_2023.pdf)

### **\*\* Big Give: The Christmas Challenge**

*Closing date for applications: 7 July 2023*

When someone donates to a charity through a Big Give campaign, funders are asked to match that donation, so, for example, £50 from a member of the public becomes £100 for a good cause. Charities must secure a minimum of £1k in pledges to be eligible for Champion funding. For information see <https://biggive.org/christmas-challenge/>

### **Cost-of-Living Support Scotland**

*Application deadline not stated*

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

**Volunteers' Week Scotland 2023**



1–7 June 2023 (Scotland-wide)

Volunteers' Week is a UK wide campaign when volunteering involving organisations and groups are encouraged to thank their volunteers, past and present and celebrate and recognise volunteering efforts. For information see <https://volunteersweek.scot/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Applying a Human Rights and Equalities First Approach: Workshop**

1 June 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course about applying a human rights and equalities first approach – for people who already know a bit about human rights and equalities or are already familiar with the human rights and equalities first approach, and want to know how to apply them to their role and/or organisation. For information about 2 May see <https://tinyurl.com/389ys5ke>, about 15 May see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zzeuv>, and 1 June see <https://tinyurl.com/59fc5enf>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Police Scotland Positive Action Recruitment Information: BMI Communities**

3 June 2023 (Aberdeen, 10.00–1.00)

Police Scotland events focusing on the recruitment process, the training and what life as a police officer is really like. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckr34ya> or contact [RecruitmentPositiveActionTeam@scotland.police.uk](mailto:RecruitmentPositiveActionTeam@scotland.police.uk)

### **Inclusion in Volunteering**

6 June 2023 (online, 2.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to identify common themes from diverse groups, with a focus on enabling everyone to volunteer, and increase understanding by challenging stereotypes and assumptions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z9wmtnpj>

### **Refugee Festival Scotland**

16-25 June 2023 (Scotland-wide)

People from refugee backgrounds make a huge contribution to life in Scotland and that's worth celebrating. The Scottish Refugee Council's unique festival brings people together to meet, mix share art, culture and ideas, and get to know each other better. For information and a full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/ubajubzi>

### **Walking Tour: Refugee Histories of Glasgow**

17 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.00)

Walking tour to explore some of Glasgow's refugee histories, across the world and around the city. From international solidarity campaigns to grassroots community action, refugees and asylum seekers have played key roles in the city's cultural and political life in recent years. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wby6j57s>

### **Glasgow Black History Walking Tour**

18 June 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00)

21 June 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00)

CRER walking tours taking participants on a historical journey through Glasgow's mercantile past and examine the city's connections with tobacco, slavery and the abolition movement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mryxxtky>

### **Our Stories, Our Voices**

19 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.30–12.30)

Glasgow Life Adult Learning Services reading of stories, poems, and reflections as part of Refugee Festival Scotland inspired by the theme of hope. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4jhzpx9t>

### **Sharing Stories of Hope and Courage (women-only event)**

19 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Glasgow Weekend Club event to learn about and celebrate refugee histories in Scotland. Includes a guided tour of Garnethill Synagogue, the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, and the Scottish Jewish Holocaust Era Study Centre, and in particular the event will hear the story of a woman artist who fled the Nazis in her home in Austria and came to Scotland, and do a craft activity around what gives them hope in challenging times. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yvjmut4t>

### **\*\* #CompassionIntoAction: Embracing Collective Action to Support Refugees Seeking Sanctuary**

20 June 2023 (online, 6.00–7.00)

Glasgow University 'World Changing Glasgow Conversation' focussing on the importance of collaboration and connectivity, and exploring how through collective action we can work together to ensure that we support those who are seeking sanctuary. For information see <https://hopin.com/events/uog-compassionintoaction>

### **Holding Hope in the Face of Hate**

22 June 2023 (Glasgow, 11.00–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland refugee Week event bringing together members of faith communities and the general public from across Scotland to engage in a dialogue around ways to challenge hatred towards asylum seekers and refugees, especially in light of the growing anti-asylum seeker rhetoric and the cost of living crisis. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2pt4bolx>

### **Learn about the Hostile Environment & How to be a Good Ally**

22 June 2023 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.30)

24 June 2023 (Glasgow, 3.00–5.30)

Workshop for those who want to learn more about the asylum process in the UK, co-created with people who have direct experience of the UK's Hostile Environment policies. This session will breakdown the reality beyond the headlines and the political rhetoric. We aim to answer questions such as: What does it mean to be a refugee? Is an asylum seeker different? Why are people paying smugglers to get in small boats? For information about the 22 June event see <https://tinyurl.com/bdduprh2>, and for 24 June see <https://tinyurl.com/35sj5yte>

### **\*\* Working with and against race**

22 June 2023 (online and in Manchester, 2.00–5.00)

CODE ECR seminar about how to conceptualise race as a technology of power via Cedric Robinson's idea of the racial regime, in order to help us think about how race is recursively enacted. She will also explore the ways in which racial capitalism can be used as a methodology. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yck7zfhj>

### **Scholarship Event**

24 June 2023 (Glasgow, 3.00–7.00)

Africa Future event focussing on scholarship opportunities. This discussion will help asylum seekers find out about how to access scholarships from different universities in Scotland. Participants will be able to ask questions and have responses at the event. Different MPs, MSPs, councillors and Police Scotland will be at the event as well and available to answer questions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/msxxdtk3>

### **Developing a Volunteer Strategy**

19 September 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss the purpose of developing a strategy for volunteering, the benefits of a volunteering strategy for the wider organisation, and steps to develop a strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mu3dkx53>

### **Supporting Volunteers**

4 October 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss building a positive relationship with volunteers, plan and deliver a suitable induction process, identify and apply different support methods, and manage some of the challenges of supporting volunteers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2nbpr7se>

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## Useful Links

**Scottish Parliament** <http://www.parliament.scot/>

**Scottish Government** <https://www.gov.scot/>

**UK Parliament** <http://www.parliament.uk/>

**GovUK (links to UK Government Departments)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

**One Scotland** <http://onescotland.org/>

**Scottish Refugee Council** <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

**Refugee Survival Trust** <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

**Freedom from Torture** <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

**Interfaith Scotland** <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission** <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

**Equality Advisory Support Service** <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

**Scottish Human Rights Commission** <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

**ACAS** <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

**SCVO** <https://scvo.org.uk/>

**Volunteer Scotland** <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

**Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel** <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

**Disclosure Scotland** <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

## Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

**BBC News** <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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*The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>*



***BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>*



*The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>*

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